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Israel razes Palestinian homes

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Israeli troops demolished five Palestinian homes built "illegally" near here Monday, sparking protests during which a woman suffered a heart attack and an Israeli soldier was slightly hurt by stones, Israeli and Palestinian sources said. Residents of Kfar Akab village, just north of Jerusalem, clashed with soldiers sent to raze the homes as part of Israel's policy of preventing unauthorized construction in areas under its control in the territories. Last week the army razed 10 homes near Hebron in the southern West Bank. Palestinians complain that Israeli authorities reject or fail to act on applications for building permits in the occupied territories, forcing them to erect their homes illegally. During the unrest, an elderly woman suffered a heart attack and was taken to hospital in Ramallah.

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AMMAN TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1996, RABI I, 28, 1417

Iran files lawsuit against U.S.

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran filed a suit on Monday against the U.S. at the International Court of Justice over its undercover action plan against the Islamic republic, the foreign ministry said. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif filed the complaint at the court in the Hague against the \$20-million programme approved by the U.S. House of Representatives in December and approved by the White House. "The U.S. bill is not only against international law, but also violates some provisions in the Algeria agreement," ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said, referring to a 1981 non-interference pact signed between Iran and the U.S. The Iranian parliament has approved a \$16-million budget to counter possible U.S. covert activities. Mr. Mohammadi told Iran's official news agency IRNA that the suit also covered complaints against the Iran-Libya sanctions bill signed by U.S. President Bill Clinton last week.

King returns after 'very positive' talks with Saudi leaders

Landmark Jeddah summit seen to have given a strong boost to bilateral ties, economic and security cooperation

By Mervat Suwadeh with agency dispatches

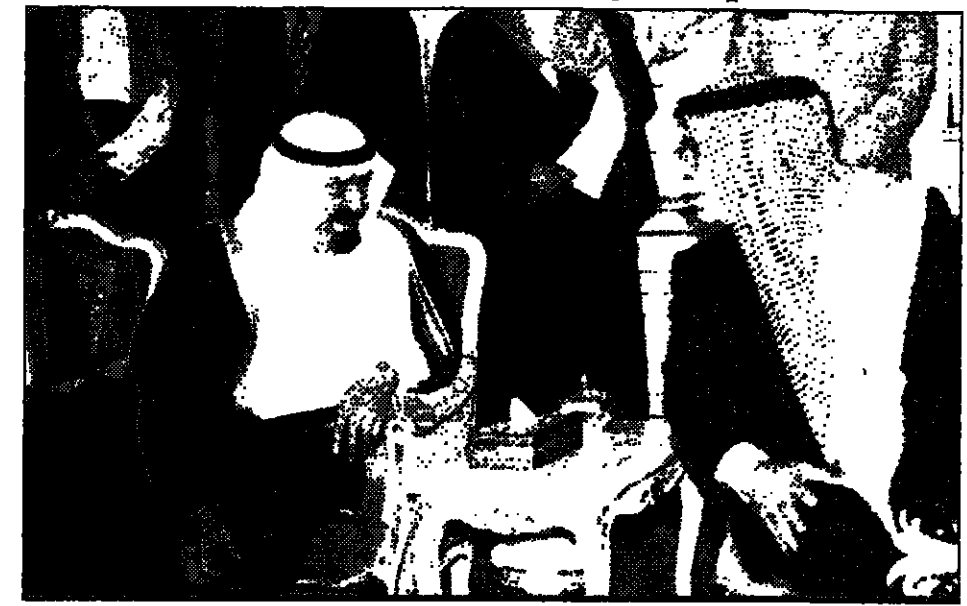
AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Monday after paying a landmark visit to Saudi Arabia and described his first meeting in six years with King Fahd as very positive and encouraging. Talking to reporters upon his return, the King expressed his "gratitude for the warm welcome" he and the Jordanian delegation received in Saudi Arabia and reiterated Jordan's commitment to strong ties with Saudi Arabia. He said he discussed with King Fahd bilateral ties, economic relations and recent developments in the Middle East peace process. "The results of the talks were very positive and

encouraging...and our views were identical," King Hussein said. The King told journalists that he and the Saudi monarch discussed "the latest developments on the peace process and the need to reach a comprehensive settlement" in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The King, who recently met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said he briefed King Fahd on "all the elements in my possession" with regard to the peace process. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said their meeting in Jeddah on Sunday night was also focused on efforts to combat terrorism.

The two leaders agreed to "boost bilateral relations by building mutual confidence," Mr. Kabariti told the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat. He said King Hussein thanked his host "for opening the door to Jordanian workers." But the focus of the talks was "developments in the peace process and the means to combat terrorism," said Mr. Kabariti. The Saudi newspaper Al Bilad stressed "the important role played by the (Saudi) kingdom in efforts to advance the peace process" and regain Israeli-occupied territories. The Jeddah talks were designed to "crown the process of normalisation begun in the summer of 1995," a Jordanian official

said, adding there were high hopes "of major, tangible results on the political and economic levels." King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia came as Arab leaders criss-cross the region for talks on how to handle the faltering peace process following the May 29 election of Mr. Netanyahu. They have been alarmed by Mr. Netanyahu's tougher stance and his refusal to negotiate on the basis of trading occupied Arab land in return for peace. Arab sources said the Saudi-Jordanian rapprochement could lead towards a reconciliation between Jordan and Kuwait. "Jordan has begun changing (its) attitude towards the Gulf countries and is accepting the Iraqi opposi-

tion," Kuwaiti Member of Parliament Talal Ayar, who also sits in the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, told AFP. "For each step made in our direction, we will make a step towards Jordan," Mr. Ayar said. Asked whether the two leaders discussed cooperation in the security field, the King told reporters in Amman: "What threatens Saudi Arabia threatens us and what threatens us threatens Saudi Arabia, and we coordinate in this field to the utmost of our capability." The King was accompanied on the two-day visit by their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal, Prince Ali, Prince



His Majesty King Hussein and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah in Jeddah on Monday upon the King's departure after talks with Saudi King Fahd and other Saudi leaders (Petra photo)

(Continued on page 7)

More than 60 corruption files sent to courts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prosecutors have referred more than 60 cases involving corruption and related crimes to courts for trial in the first phase of the government's drive to root out corruption. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday. The minister, in his weekly press briefing, also said other cases were under investigation by a committee chaired by a senior officer from the General Intelligence Department and will be referred to court as and when the files are ready. Dr. Muasher was fulfilling a promise he made that the government, which has declared the fight against corruption as one of its key priorities, would keep the media informed of the progress of corruption cases.

Reading from a long list, the minister said that 63 cases were sent to court as of July 31, 1996. These included 15 cases related to customs and smuggling, eight connected with Ministry of Supply regulations, seven cases involving antiquities smuggling, seven cases of counterfeit food, seven cases of misappropriation of state land, four of arms and drug smuggling and sales, five related to government tenders, two related to the water sector and one case each of health rule violation, bank fraud, forgery of lottery ticket and forgery of work permit. The minister declined to provide more details of the cases since they have reached court. The general description of the nature of the cases cited by Dr. Muasher appeared to confirm some of the reports of alleged corruption carried in local tabloids suggesting that senior officials were involved. "The government is very serious in its effort to root out corruption," the minister reiterated, adding that the revelations of the cases sent to court were an indication of the seriousness. Opposition parties in Parliament have accused the government of paying only lip-service to fighting corruption. Some deputies

(Continued on page 7)

Bread prices set at 180, 220 and 250 fils per kilo

By Tareq Momani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government on Monday announced increases in the prices of bread as part of a move to remove subsidies for wheat in line with the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme while also extending cash compensation for Jordanians to offset the increase. The increases were announced by Minister of Supply Munir Snobar in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Mr. Snobar said Arabic bread produced from Jordanian wheat would be sold at 180 fils per kilogramme. Bread produced from a mixture of Jordanian and imported wheat will be sold at 220 fils a kilogramme and that made wholly from imported wheat at 250 fils a kilogramme. Prior to the increases, which go into immediate effect, the three types of bread were at 85 fils, 120 fils and 150 fils respectively

per kilogramme. The government has already announced cash compensation of JD 1.28 per month for every Jordanian to offset the increase. The government announcement of the increase in prices as an administrative decision came after the executive and legislative authorities could not reach agreement on the issue. A special committee set up by the Lower House of Parliament proposed two options but both were turned down by the government since they did not meet the basic objective of removal of subsidies and cutting government expenditure (see separate story). A 24-member group in the 80-seat Lower House has declared open opposition to the move and is insisting on boycotting Parliament sessions. The group insists that the Jordan Television screen to the public the full speeches that its members made during last Monday's session in which they aired their views

against the government's subsidy plans. Efforts on Monday to persuade these deputies to change their mind and attend Wednesday's session failed and the group's members were reported to have turned down an offer by House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour to end their boycott of the sessions in exchange for an address by one of the group in Parliament on Wednesday clarifying their position with regard to their demand that last Monday's session be televised in full, according to parliamentary sources. In Wednesday's session deputies are scheduled to vote on the recommendations submitted to the government by the special parliamentary committee offering alternatives to the government's plans, according to these sources. The 24-member group not only voiced their rejection of these plans but also demanded that the House speaker ban Jordan Television cameras' access into

the House in accordance with Article 83 of Parliament's internal regulations which call for the accurate relay of deliberations and authorise the speaker to take appropriate measures against any media outlet that distort the House's deliberations. The special committee's chairman, Samir Habashneh, said that he had asked the 24-member group to attend Wednesday's session in order to approve of the committee's proposals to the government. "The committee presented its view and discussed the situation and asked the group to reconsider their stand," added Mr. Habashneh. Meanwhile, a parliamentary source who preferred anonymity said: "Protests against Jordan Television's failure to screen all the speeches should not be transformed into a general boycott of the House's sessions. The boycott is nothing but an escape from facing the realities."

"A boycott could disrupt the session because there would not be a quorum for the meeting which might consequently give the government an excuse to terminate the current extraordinary session," added the source. The source said: "It was not the government that requested an extraordinary session but rather 46 deputies who signed a formal request for it. Therefore deputies should not be the party to obstruct the convening of the sessions which are supposed to handle draft laws," added the source. Informed government sources told the Jordan Times the government's approach to the prices of bread aimed at stopping wastage and smuggling of bread, saving the treasury a significant amount and helping to stabilise the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar. The government has stressed that each citizen will receive compensation for the differences in prices and had taken all the

required procedures to ensure that this will be applied through the banks and the concerned government departments, the sources noted. Islamic Action Front Deputy Hameed Mansour Monday issued a statement on behalf of the 24-member group demanding that the government cover the deficit in the budget by stopping what he called financial corruption and retrieving "stolen funds" and through amending laws, which, he said, were enacted in order to favour the interests of "certain influential persons."

He also called on the special parliamentary committee to join the 24-member group and oppose the government's subsidy plans. But committee member Nader Thuheirat made it clear that the committee's proposals were not binding on the government and said that the prime minister had explained to the committee the reasons behind the executive authorities' plan. He said that cooperation between the legislative and the executive authorities should continue to safeguard national interests. The special parliamentary committee had suggested to the government to fix the bread prices at 130 fils a kilo, with the government paying compensation to the beneficiaries of the National Aid Fund or at 150 fils, with the government paying compensation to all those who hold food coupons allowing them to buy milk, rice and sugar at subsidised prices. In reply the government offered to fix Arabic bread price at 180 fils a kilo and all other kinds of bread at 220 fils and said it would provide bread free to the needy who receive aid from the National Aid Fund. Among those who will be affected by the hike in prices are the estimated 400,000 non-Jordanian workers in the country as well as an estimated 1.3 million tourists, according to 1995 estimates.

Parliamentary proposals on bread prices not practical — official source

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Proposals made by a parliamentary committee would actually increase the amount of subsidy for bread instead of achieving the goal of removing subsidies and the government does not find any room for compromise over the issue, an official source said Monday. Specific figures provided by the source on wheat consumption in Jordan and government estimates of actual expenditures based on various options showed that if the government were to accept the committee's proposals it would end up spending JD 20 million to JD 30 million in addition to the present annual subsidy of around JD 95 million on bread. The figures derived by the special committee of the Lower House on the issue were not immediately available. It was also not known whether those figures matched those of the government. But the source insisted that the government figures were based on methodical calculations and it was highly unlikely that anyone could challenge the figures. The government and the parliamentary panel remain

deadlocked over the issue of subsidy for bread, but Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti is expected to announce the increase in the price of bread and modifying the form of subsidy as an administrative decision. The source, who did not want to be identified, pointed out that if the government set a price of 150 fils per kilogramme of bread and a direct cash compensation of JD 1.28 per head for every Jordanian as proposed by the panel, the actual cost to the treasury would be JD 113 million instead of the present JD 94.5 million. Under another option, also tabled by the panel, of setting 130 fils per kilogramme and a JD 2.08 fils per head per month cash compensation to all beneficiaries of the National Aid Fund, the increase in expenditure will be about JD 30 million, the sources said. The pertinent figures provided by the source, who said they were given by the Department of Statistics and the Central Bank, were: — Jordan imports about 700,000 tonnes of wheat every year. World prices of wheat are about \$200 to \$225 per tonne. This means Pan average cost of 220 fils

per kilogramme of bread in Jordan (including transport and processing costs). — Given the present price of 85 fils per kilogramme of bread in Jordan, the government pays the difference — 135 fils per kilogramme (based on a cost price of 220 fils/kilogramme minus the present price of 85 fils/per kilogramme = 135 fils), meaning a total of JD 94.5 million in subsidy per year. — Proposals of the special committee formed by the Lower House of Parliament include setting a new price of 150 fils per kilogramme and JD 1.28 per head cash per month compensation to all Jordanians. Under such a system, the actual government cost would be more than the present subsidies, said the source. The source noted that the share of government payment as difference (220 fils minus 150 fils = 70 fils) in international and local price of bread will be JD 49 million and the direct cash compensation will be JD 64 million, thus the total government burden would be JD 113 million. "The government will end up spending nearly JD 20 million dinars over and

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. says gas deal sends 'wrong message' to Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States said on Monday that a \$23 billion Iran-Turkey energy deal "sends the wrong message" to Tehran but hedged on whether the agreement would prompt U.S. sanctions against Ankara under a new law. "Our general reaction is that we believe that this deal's conclusion sends the wrong message to Iran," State Department deputy spokesman Glyn Davies told reporters. Mr. Davies said the United States did not know all aspects of the agreement but "as its details become known to us, we of course will have to evaluate whether the provisions of the Iran/Libya sanctions act will be brought into play in reaction to it." He was reacting to reports that Iran and Turkey had struck a huge gas supply deal worth \$23 billion just a week after a new U.S. law penalising foreign investment in Iran's energy sector (see page 8). U.S. Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff telephoned his Turkish counterpart earlier on Monday to express U.S. concerns about the deal. Mr. Davies said that despite Washington's concerns, the United States

and Turkey — a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally — had strong ties and "we certainly don't expect that this will cause a major rift in our relationship." The Turkish-Iranian deal poses a blunt challenge to Washington, which must balance good relations with a pivotal ally against its policy of isolating Iran, analysts said. The deal signed Monday marked the first concrete step by Turkey's new Islamist prime minister towards Iran, the bete noire of U.S. politics and Washington's "leading candidate" as a sponsor of international terrorism. "Turkey is a NATO ally. But this kind of deal, cozying up with Iran, is regrettable and dangerous. And the administration has to deal with it," said an aide to senator Alfonse D'Amato, sponsor of the bill targeting foreign investment in Iran and Libya. The D'Amato aide suggested that the appropriate sanction would be to deny Turkey financing by U.S. banking institutions of more than \$10 million for any six-month period. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns

(Continued on page 7)

Israel, Palestinians to resume civilian talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israelis and Palestinians will resume talks on coordinating activities in the occupied territories Wednesday, ending a six-month freeze in the negotiations, officials said Monday. The first regular meeting of the joint civil affairs committee will take place in Jerusalem, headed by General Oren Shohor, coordinator of Israeli activities in the territories, and Civil Affairs Minister Jamil Tarifi for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said Gen. Shohor's spokesman Shlomo Dror. He said it would be the first meeting of the committee since Israel suspended negotiations and imposed a military closure on the territories amid a spate of suicide bombings in the Jewish state which killed 58 people. "I think that it is important after these past months that we are getting back to the negotiating table," Mr. Dror told AFP. On Thursday, Gen. Shohor and Mr. Tarifi will hold a second meeting in the Gaza Strip aimed at removing the last obstacles to the opening of a Palestinian airport at Rafah, he said.

"I hope this is going to show the Palestinians that we are back to business, that we are continuing the process," he said. Mr. Dror said Gen. Shohor and Mr. Tarifi had met during the past six months to discuss issues directly related to the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but that Wednesday's meeting marked the resumption of full committee negotiations. The committee is tasked with coordinating policy between Israel and the Palestinian autonomy administration in such areas as transportation, water supplies, electricity and trade. Israel public radio reported that Gen. Shohor would carry a message Wednesday for the Palestinians from Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai stressing that progress in the peace process depended on continued calm on the security front. Following the suicide bombings, both Israel and the PNA launched a vast crackdown on militants and there have been no suicide bombings since early March, although four

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Hariri to run in elections; Christians call for boycott

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri announced Monday his candidature for a Beirut parliamentary seat in legislative elections due to start on Aug. 18.

"I have decided to be a candidate for the election for the Beirut seat," Mr. Hariri said in a press conference at his home in Beirut.

Mr. Hariri said he made the decision to run for the Sunni Muslim seat to "elevate the representation of Beirut in parliament" and to maintain confidence in his government's post-war multi-billion dollar reconstruction programme.

Mr. Hariri said he will pursue efforts for the liberation of southern Lebanon, where Israel has occupied a border strip since 1985.

The polls are due to be held on five consecutive Sundays starting from Aug. 18. They will be the first parliamentary elections since 1992 in Lebanon, still recovering from a 15-year civil war which ended in 1990.

Lebanon has always held elections on consecutive Sundays for technical and administrative reasons.

The Christian community largely boycotted the last elections on the grounds that free and fair polls could not be held in the presence of the 35,000 Syrian

troops deployed across two-thirds of Lebanon.

Three Paris-based Lebanese Christian opposition leaders have criticised a draft election law approved by the government to amend a law declared invalid and renewed a call to Lebanon to boycott parliamentary polls.

The three leaders, in remarks carried on Monday by Beirut newspapers, also urged parliament to reject the draft law passed by the government on Friday to replace a law declared unconstitutional by Lebanon's constitutional court last week.

Parliament will meet on Tuesday to discuss the amendments to the law, which had sparked opposition from some Christian leaders who said the law aimed to reduce their ability to elect representatives who oppose Syria's influence over Lebanon.

Renewing a call to boycott the polls due to open on Aug. 18, Christian leader General Michel Aoun told Al Diyar daily in a telephone interview nothing has changed in the election law to prompt the Christian opposition to change its stand.

"Our position is still the same: we call for a boycott of the elections especially as the government did not respect the time frame set by the law," said Gen. Aoun, ousted in 1990 after an

abortive war on Syrian troops in Lebanon a year earlier.

Gen. Aoun's call for a boycott was echoed by Raymond Edde, who heads the right-wing National Bloc party, as well as former President Amin Gemayel. The three Maronite leaders are known as the "external opposition" as they all live in Paris.

The law divides the predominantly Christian area of Mount Lebanon into six smaller electoral districts, while the rest of Lebanon would vote on the basis of four larger governorates.

The draft law kept electoral divisions noted in article two of the old law for one final time.

This division makes election more difficult for opposition Christians who demand the withdrawal of Syria's 35,000 troops from Lebanon.

Lebanon's minority Christians, most of whom are opposed to the Syrian presence, have been deeply divided over whether to vote in the polls or repeat a 1992 elections boycott.

Some Christian opposition leaders who live in Lebanon, like former Member of Parliament Albert Moukhaiber, an outspoken critic of the Syrian-backed government, have declared their candidacy in the polls.



PALESTINIAN WORKERS ARRESTED: An Israeli Border Policeman gestures to a group of Palestinians to remain quiet Monday morning as they were speaking to the photographer. The Palestinians said they were detained after the Israeli authorities found they did not have the proper identity papers and they had slipped past Israeli police at a checkpoint leading from the West Bank into Jerusalem. It is not known if the Palestinians were arrested or made to cross back into the West Bank and the photographer was told to stop taking photographs and leave the area (Reuters photo)

Hekmatyar berates U.S. policy, refuses to meet Senator Brown

KABUL (AP) — United States Senator Hank Brown arrived in Afghanistan Monday, but received a cool reception from Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who accused Washington of conspiring against Islam.

Citing Washington's new punitive sanctions against Iran and Libya, Mr. Hekmatyar said the United States was trying to hurt Muslim countries.

"The United States supports terrorism," he said during an interview on state-run television in the capital Kabul. "They are starting a conspiracy against the Islamic World."

Mr. Hekmatyar's comments, made on the eve of Mr. Brown's arrival, were in stark contrast to how other senior government officials received the Republican senator from Colorado.

Mr. Hekmatyar declined to meet with Mr. Brown. Afghanistan's nominal government had been urging Washington to play a more active role in solving its four-year-old civil war that has left more than 25,000 people dead in Kabul alone.

Mr. Hekmatyar, a former government foe, joined forces with President Burhanuddin Rabbani in June, and has encouraged a more conservative brand of Islam for Afghanistan.

Mr. Brown on Monday travelled to the rebel Taliban stronghold of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan to meet with militia leaders.

He was scheduled to return to Kabul for meetings with Mr. Rabbani and

military leader Ahmed Shah Masood.

It was Mr. Brown's second visit to Afghanistan this year.

In April, Mr. Brown told government leaders in Kabul he would lobby Washington to reopen its embassy in Afghanistan and continue to support United Nations peace efforts.

"We very much appreciate the fact that Americans are becoming interested in Afghanistan after four years of negligence," said Defence Ministry spokesman Amrullah.

Afghanistan's warring factions have complained that Washington turned its back on them after occupying Soviet troops withdrew and Kabul's erstwhile communist government was toppled.

The United States and other Western countries pulled back their support for Afghanistan when victorious anti-communist guerrillas in 1992 splintered and factional fighting erupted.

On his last trip to Afghanistan, Mr. Brown was asked to urge Pakistan to stop supporting the Taliban rebels. Pakistan denies the charges.

The Taliban, a previously unheard of rebel movement, entered the civil war in late 1994 and swiftly captured more than half the country.

Mr. Brown is in Afghanistan as part of a larger trip through South Asia.

Rabin's widow gets apology over his assassin's 'fan club'

TEL AVIV (R) — The mother of a girl who belonged to a teenage fan club for the late Yitzhak Rabin's assassin apologised publicly on Monday to the widow of the slain Israeli prime minister.

"I wish to express sorrow and remorse over everything to Mrs. Leah Rabin, (the girl's) school and anyone personally hurt," the mother, who was not identified, told army radio.

Asked if her 16-year-old daughter was party to the apology, she replied: "Especially her."

Israel Television's broadcast of an interview with three teenage girls whose admiration of killer Yigal Amir — and of what one called his "sweet smile" — revived bitter memories of

the violent climate that preceded Mr. Rabin's Nov. 4 murder.

Mrs. Leah Rabin told Israel Radio on Sunday that Amir has "a community of admirers" and that many Israelis believe the murder was "an excellent thing to carry out."

During the television interview in Kiryat Gat, southern Israel, the girls displayed scrapbooks with smiling pictures of Amir, 26, and wrote to him in jail where he is serving a life sentence.

Rachel Buhbut, headmistress of the religious high school of two of the girls, said only a handful were involved in the fan club.

Iraqi tricks own countrymen and Egyptians to defect

CAIRO (AP) — An Iraqi army deserter who tricked his countrymen and Egyptian diplomats into believing he was an Egyptian labourer has escaped to Egypt to request political asylum, police said Sunday.

Ahmad Ali, 32, was allowed by police to tell his story to reporters, saying he fled Iraq because of political repression and increasing poverty under U.N. Security Council sanctions.

Mr. Ali arrived Friday in the Red Sea port of Nuweiba after fooling Iraqi officials and Egyptian diplomats by speaking Arabic with an Egyptian accent, said police sources, who spoke under customary rules of anonymity.

He claimed he was from

Mansura north of Cairo but had lost his identity papers. Many Egyptians worked as labourers in Iraq prior to the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraqi authorities turned him over to Egyptian diplomats in Baghdad, who gave him money to go home. He asked for asylum on arrival, and Egypt is considering his case.

"Kill me here, but don't send me back to Iraq," Mr. Ali quoted himself as pleading to passport officials.

He told reporters that in Iraq "There is oppression and hunger."

Women sell themselves for food, and whoever speaks out is either jailed or killed."

Gulf events keep Kuwaiti nerves taut

KUWAIT (R) — Attacks on U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia and tension between Washington and Iran are stirring concern in Kuwait proprietor of a tenth of the world's oil.

The desert state of 1.8 million remains anxious about former occupier Iraq and fears new security woes could wreck the repair of national confidence shattered by Baghdad's 1990 invasion.

"If war erupts in this region, people in New York, Baltimore and Indiana will still go on with their way of life, but we will not," said political scientist Abdullah Al Nafisi, a critic of U.S. policy in the Gulf.

"The Iraqis may not bomb Americans. They would bomb us. We are squeezed in the middle. We have a lot to lose."

Kuwait has an importance in regional security out of all proportion to its size because of a volatile combination of giant oil reserves and sensitive location, wedged uneasily between the Gulf's three main powers — Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait and other Gulf Arab leaders say they are vigilant about upholding Gulf stability. But ordinary

Kuwaitis have watched in alarm in recent months as bombs have killed U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, political unrest gripped nearby Bahrain and Washington waged a war of words with Iran.

Already unnerved by the political survival of arch foe Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Kuwaitis say any further security flap would slow the repair of the war-torn economy and military.

Trouble with Iraq is bad enough, they say. Trouble involving both Iran and Saudi Arabia as well would be a disaster. "What's brewing in the region is a Kuwaiti nightmare," said a diplomat.

Gulf tension has grown since Washington said Iran might be a suspect in a June bombing in Al Khobar in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 U.S. airmen. Iran vehemently denied any involvement.

Five Americans and two Indians died in a bombing in Riyadh in November.

U.S. President Bill Clinton signed a bill last week that gave him power to penalise non-U.S. firms that invest \$40 million or more a year in Iran and Libya, two states he said were sponsors of international terrorism.

The ill-feeling threatens the progress Kuwait has made in rebuilding once-cool ties with Iran in contrast to Tehran's chilly ties with Gulf Arab states. Relations improved after the Gulf crisis because Iran stayed neutral in that conflict.

But Kuwaiti worries about Saudi Arabia go much deeper. The Saudi bombings reminded Kuwaitis of a 1980s bombing campaign in Kuwait that marked the first time militants took their war against the West into a Gulf Arab state.

Kuwaitis blamed most of those attacks on pro-Iranian/Iraqi Shi'ites demanding the creation of an Islamic state in Iraq.

Kuwaitis also point out they and their 96 billion barrels of oil remain reliant for security on the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia — the springboard for Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Kuwaiti concerns about Saudi Arabia stem largely from their familiarity with the sensitivities of ordinary Saudis towards the presence of U.S. troops — a familiarity they gained while in exile in Saudi Arabia during Iraq's seven-month occupation.

Mr. Nafisi said the average Kuwaiti felt his security was tied to Saudi security and the U.S. presence, but there was a feeling the U.S. presence was now "itself a reason for instability."

Mr. Nafisi said: "I saw American troops walk the streets of Al Khobar in the 'occupation.' At that time I realised that we needed them — and we still do — but even then I felt provoked because it was so loud. I felt disrespected. They walk into the bazaar in Dhahran with their sleeves rolled up, their hamburgers, beer cans and alien values. They feel that they own you. It is very humiliating."

Some Kuwaitis applauded a plan to move U.S. troops out of contact with large Saudi populations to help stabilise the American presence and thereby reinforce Kuwaiti security.

Most Kuwaiti officials do not like the measure. They have resisted attempts to implement similar steps in Kuwait, saying the move looks like an American retreat.

"It will just encourage the terrorists," said one official.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
15:05	Professor
15:20	Captain Planet
15:45	Hot Shots (Sports)
16:10	Bob Morrison Show
16:30	Comedy — ALF
17:00	Sciences Cartoon
17:15	La Vie Devant Moi
17:30	Game Show
18:00	Pyramide
18:00	Varieties — Reinette L'Oranise
19:00	Le Journal
19:15	Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Blossom
20:00	Documentary
20:30	Encounter
20:45	Varieties
21:10	Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00	News in English
22:20	Human Target
23:15	Hawwii 5-0
23:45	My Two Wives
PRAYER TIMES	
04:28	Fajr
05:53	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:20	'Asr
19:28	Maghreb
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CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church	

Tel. 632785.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623266	
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Relative hot weather conditions will prevail with temperatures northwesterly moderate to	

active. In Aqaba, it will be hot and dusty, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.	
Amman	22/36
Aqaba	28/41
Deserts	20/38
Jordan Valley	26/40
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi	894788
Dr. Bassam Karadshah	759200
Dr. Khalid M'addi	661144
Dr. Khalid Abdo	657129
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847652
IRBID:	
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh	250080
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ismail Tallawi	903469
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111

Civil Defence Dept. 661111	
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341	
Civil Defence Emergency 199	
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade 617101	
Blood Bank 775121	
Highway Police 843402	
Traffic Police 896390	
Public Security Department 630321	
Hotel Complaints 605800	
Price Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467	
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111	
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121	
Overseas Calls 010230	
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101	
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101	
Jordan Television 773111	
Radio Jordan 774111	
Water Authority 680100	
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	
Electric Power Company 636381	
RJ Flight Information 08-53200	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200	

AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalidi Maternity	644281/6
Akileh Maternity	643441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	607071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir	775111/26
Army, Marika	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	09983323
Zarqa National Hospital	09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	09986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	099500
IRBID:	09990990
Princess Basma Hospital	02275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	02272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital	02247100

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
08:00	Damascus (RJ)
08:15	Sanaa (RJ)
10:15	Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
10:20	Beirut (RJ)
10:35	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:05	Tunis (add) (RJ)
16:05	Detroit, Amsterdam (add) (RJ)
17:30	London (RJ)
17:40	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25	Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:30	Cairo (RJ)
02:50	Madrid (RJ)
Other Flights	
05:40	London (BA)
09:15	Cairo (MS)
13:40	Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00	Riyadh (SV)
14:00	Munich (YP)
16:00	Rome (AZ)
16:30	Dubai (EK)
19:35	Amsterdam (KL)
20:20	London (BA)
20:20	Aden (FY)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
22:00	Tel Aviv (LY)
00:55	Bucharest (RO)
03:00	Kuwait (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights	
09:50	Aqaba (RW)
19:45	Tel Aviv (RW)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday	
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday	
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700/500
Banana	600/600
Banana (mukhammar)	520/520
Banana (imported)	860/600
Carrot	160/90
Cauliflower	360/240
Cucumber (large)	240/140
Cucumber (small)	420/250
Eggplant	220/140
Garlic	650/400
Grapes	420/250
Lemon	650/450
Marrow (large)	250/150
Marrow (small)	430/260
Mulukhiyah	120/80
Onion (dry)	150/80
Okra	850/500
Pea	500/300
Pear	800/500
Peach	800/500
Pepper (hot)	340/200
Pepper (sweet)	380/240
Potato	350/220
String Bean	750/500
Sweet melon	270/150
Tomato	120/70
Water melon	210/150

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Cucumber (small)	420/250
Eggplant	220/140
Garlic	650/400
Grapes	420/250
Lemon	650/450

Queen participates in population programmes' motivational campaigns in Zai municipality

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited the Municipality of Zai where she attended a series of motivational campaigns inaugurated by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), according to a Royal Court statement.

"Family Health is the Joint Responsibility of Both Spouses" is the slogan of the series organised by the NHF's Population Programmes for the Grassroots (PPG) in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The two-year campaign, which was launched last April at Mukheibeh in Irbid and subsequently moved to Shobak and Iraq Al Amir, Monday reached the Municipality of Zai, where Queen Noor viewed the NHF's Theatre-in-Education's interactive play entitled, "A Day in the Life of a Family," the statement said.

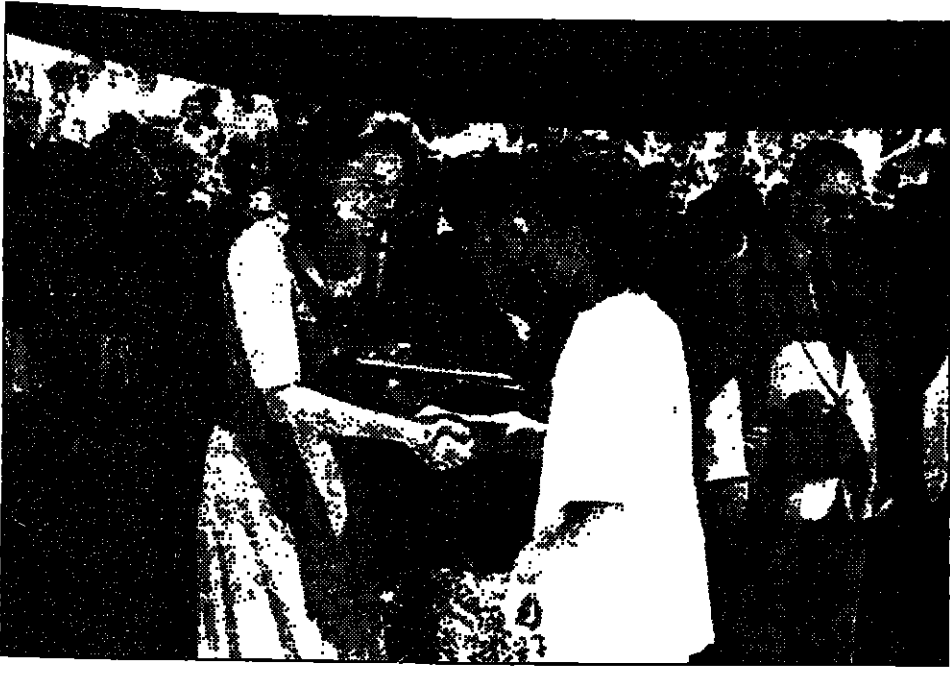
In the play, actors engage the community in discussions that raise awareness of family planning concepts and problems related to pre- and post-natal care.

Emphasis on family awareness was also reflected in a painting contest for children, who competed to produce the most innovative depiction of the motivational campaign's slogan.

In addition local children attended a puppet show, organised by the NHF's Mobile Life and Science Museum, which recounted the story of a young girl who overcomes obstacles to her plans for education and work.

The Queen ended her visit by participating in a discussion group conducted by Dr. Wafa' Daqqa of the Jordanian Planned Parenthood Society on early detection of breast and cervical cancer, the statement said.

In her welcoming remarks, PPG Project Director Nina Jade, said that the main goals of the motivational campaign were to "advocate reproductive health and gender related issues for the 20,000 people living in 13 villages served by the NHF. (This is achieved) by highlighting the importance of shared responsibilities and decision-making among



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday presents a gift to one of the winners of a children's painting competition in Zai municipality (Petra photo)

spouses, women's rights and responsible family planning as the basis for familial health and welfare."

Ms. Jade added that Jordan's annual population growth rate, estimated at 3.3 per cent, left unchecked, would increase four-fold, reaching 17 million people by the year 2035.

United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) National Programme Officer Lina Mousa, noted that the Population Programme, which is the second joint project between the NHF and UNFPA, "comprises 14 projects distributed into three main core programme areas: reproductive health, including family planning, population and development strategies, and advocacy," the statement said.

The Population Programme for the Grassroots is a three-year programme launched in Aug. 1994 to introduce reproductive health and family planning concepts in 13 remote villages throughout Jordan which benefit from the comprehensive development programmes of the NHF's Quality of Life Project, and Women in Development Project, the Institute for Children's Health and Development and the Jordan Design and Trade Centre.

It is helping to address Jordan's present elevated annual population growth rate by training local community leaders and health workers, organising workshops for

women, promoting an awareness of population issues among the grassroots and advocating culturally-sensitive family planning.

The programme has also produced two guidebooks and a film both of which deal with pre- and post-natal care, birth control, detection of reproductive health diseases

and breast cancer, the statement reported.

Queen Noor, accompanied by NHF Board of Trustees members Subhi Ma'ani and Nour Izzeddine, was received by the Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous and UNFPA Country Director Kanchi Moorthy, according to the statement.

Queen reviews future plans of women's group

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday met with the newly elected executive committee of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) to discuss the GFJW's future activities, according to a Royal Court statement.

These include increasing support for development projects administered by member organisations with special emphasis on agriculture and water conservation, also focusing efforts on an annual national theme such as nominating and supporting women candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Also discussed was the production of a weekly radio programme, for women and plans to work in partnership with other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to establish an "Information Centre for Women in Jordan", the statement said.

The GFJW, of which Queen Noor is honorary president, was established in 1981 as a national non-governmental organisation covering women's associations and societies to enhance the political, economic and social status of women in Jordan.

The GFJW, whose membership includes 80 societies and organisations as well as main branches located in each of the 12 governorates, mobilises women's efforts towards effective roles in making political decisions, offers educational opportunities and guidance in family welfare and health, advocates legislative reform favouring women and initiates income-generating activities in collaboration with other NGOs including the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Senator Leila Sharaf and Advisor to the Queen Ja'am Mufri attended the meeting with Queen Noor, the statement said.

Jordan Valley Authority to study plan to collect 54 mcm of water

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Monday announced that it was prepared to begin a feasibility study on construction designs to collect 54 million cubic metres (mcm) of water annually.

The study is dedicated to one project in the comprehensive plan for the development of the southern Jordan Valley regions.

JVA Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh announced that under this project the JVA plans to utilise flood waters and streams to collect water primarily for tourist, industrial and agricultural purposes.

Dr. Mahasneh added that 10 mcm will be used in irrigation, 17 mcm for the potash and chemical complexes, 15 mcm for tourism purposes on the eastern coast of the Dead Sea, and 3 mcm for domestic purposes.

The integrated project, he said, involves the construction of three dams: the Tannour Dam at Wadi Hassa, the Waleh Dam at Wadi Waleh, the Mujib Dam at Wadi Mujib, in addition to a diversion dam also at Wadi Mujib.

Dr. Mahasneh also noted that work on the Tannour Dam, which will collect

flood waters in the Ghor Safi region for irrigation of agricultural lands in the southern Jordan Valley and industrial use at the potash and Dead Sea chemical complexes, is expected to start before the end of 1996.

The Tannour Dam will be 62 metres high and is expected to have a capacity of 16.8 mcm.

As for the Waleh and Mujib dams, Dr. Mahasneh said that their waters will be used to artificially feed the underground aquifers, irrigate around 4,000 dunums of land around Waleh and Hidan wadis, as well as supply Amman

with water. The Waleh and Wadi Mujib dams will have a capacity of 9.3 mcm and 35 mcm, added Dr. Mahasneh. He said the project also entails the laying of a 70-kilometre pipeline to supply the potash plant at Ghor Safi with water and a 30-kilometre pipeline for water supply in the Dead Sea area.

The project, Dr. Mahasneh said, will also involve the construction of agricultural installations which will help reclaim 20,000 dunums of dry land in the southern Jordan Valley.

Bahraini defence minister arrives for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Bahraini Minister of Defence Sheikh Salman Ben Hamad Al Khalifeh arrived in Amman Monday for meetings on bilateral cooperation in military fields.

Upon his arrival, Sheikh Salman conveyed greetings from Bahrain's ruler Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifeh to His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

He said the Bahraini government will affirm his country's determination to maintain and strengthen mutual relations.

Sheikh Salman was invited to Jordan by Field Marshal Abdul Hafiz Marei Kaabneh, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The Bahraini official



HRH Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad Monday welcomes Bahraini Minister of Defence Sheikh Salman Ben Hamad Al Khalifeh who arrived in Amman for meetings on bilateral cooperation in military fields (Petra photo)

was welcomed at the airport by HRH Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, the

King's cultural secretary, senior officials and high ranking army officers as

well as Bahrain's ambassador, to Jordan Mohammad Seif Al Musallam.

Community college graduates score 71 per cent average in final exams

AMMAN (Petra) — The average score of students who took the final diploma examinations for 1995 at the country's 54 public and private community colleges was 71 per cent, according to the Ministry of Higher Education Monday.

In announcing the results at a press conference, Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Hisban said 12,103 students sat for the examination and 8,612 of them passed. He said eight students failed to take the examinations.

The total number of students who took the examination in the academic curriculum was 3080: this breaks down to: pedagogy 395, engineering 1,534,

agriculture 152, medicine 1,481, finance and administration 3,120, computer science 1,234, hotel management 103, applied arts 824, social work 179 and air traffic control 1.

The students took exams in 106 specialisations, the ministry official said.

For the first time the community college courses included sight testing, special education, applied statistics, warehouse management, welding, machine fitting, water-well drilling, and Islamic preaching, according to Dr. Hisban.

He added that community colleges will start accepting new students in the second half of August and that the ministry encourages the

introduction of new courses which would fit the requirements of the local labour market.

He also announced that the ministry has referred several draft laws to the parliament, including one which envisages the creation of an institution to serve as an umbrella for all public community colleges and suggested that it be located in Salt.

Once the law has been endorsed, Dr. Hisban added, community colleges will operate independently but will fall under the overall supervision of the Council of Higher Education.



Saleh Irsheidat

Ministry to get tough on tour agencies

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat Monday promised measures to protect citizens from tour and travel agencies whom he accused of failing to deliver on their advertised tour packages.

Dr. Irsheidat said that because of the agencies' failure in the execution of planned and organised tours as published in the local press, people started to lose confidence in the companies' efficiency and complained to the ministry.

According to a tourism law published in 1988, it is the ministry's right and duty to supervise the business of organised tours abroad.

The law stipulates that all travel agencies have to apply for prior approval from the Ministry of Tourism to publish their tour programmes in the local press and register their clients' names.

Agencies violating this principle will have to face legal action in the future, the minister warned.

Brother confesses to killing sister

AMMAN (J.T.) — A man confessed Sunday evening to strangling his 30-year old sister to death at her home near the Wehdat district of Amman.

In his confession, the suspect said that he killed his sister in order to steal her jewellery.

The incident occurred Saturday. According to a report in the local press Monday quoting an Amman police department spokesman, the police charged the man with murder and robbery.

The spokesman said her body was found by her husband when he returned from work.

The autopsy on the dead woman's body indicated that she was preg-

nant in her fifth month. Investigations in this case will continue, the spokesman added.

Labourer found murdered

Another news item in the local press Monday reported the murder of a 35-year-old Egyptian woodworker.

The victim's body was found dumped near the railway line at the Wadi Rimam district in south-eastern Amman.

Initial investigations revealed that the man was probably struck in the back of his head and neck with some sort of cleaver.

The police spokesman, who would not reveal the identity of the victim,

said that investigations are under way.

In another incident, a 50-year old man was killed and two others, aged 30 and 52, were injured while tearing down a house in the Wadi Haddadeh district.

According to the police the walls of the house collapsed suddenly causing the fatal accident.

The injured men were admitted to Al Bashir Government Hospital.

Also, Sunday, three men, aged 17, 20 and 36, were injured by stray bullets during three separate wedding ceremonies in Madaba, Yajouz and Maan.

Save Water, Every Drop Counts...

OFEXCO REGIONAL OFFICE IN JORDAN
AMR REAL ESTATE & TRADING EST.
sends its deepest condolences to the Spanish Embassy in Jordan and the Spanish Government, for the sad event of Biescas Northern Spain, our deepest feelings with the families of the victims of this incident.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY

* "Medea" (Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

* Chinese film "The Ups and Downs of Life" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.
* Children's film "The Borrowers" (part II) at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* "Oman, Past and Present" by Dr. Mu'awiyah Ibrahim at the Friends of Archaeology Center (Tel. 696682) at 6:30 p.m.
* "The Future of Opposition Press" (Arabic) by Mahmoud Al Maro'i at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Abstract (plastic) art by Hana Barto entitled "Between Past and Present" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 20.
* "Science for Health" exhibition at the British Council, until Aug. 17.
* Abstract (plastic) art by Hussein Da'seh and Nader Samarah on Jerusalem at the Orfati Art Gallery, Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 15.
* Graphic works by Eman Odeh at the Phoenix Art Gallery (Tel 695291), until Aug. 15.
* Photo exhibition by Hani Hourani entitled "People and Places" at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598), until Aug. 15.

Chechen rebels claim to storm Russians' last Grozny stronghold

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen separatists said Monday they had stormed the headquarters of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) in central Grozny and killed 25 high-ranking Russian officers.

The claim could not be confirmed by journalists, who were largely surrounded by the fighting.

Speaking by telephone, rebel spokesman Movladi Udogov told AFP that the Chechens had taken over the ground floor of the four-storey building, which the rebels say is the only government building still under Russian forces' control in the centre of the city.

"There are a lot of people killed, many Russian FSB collaborators, including 25 commanders, lieutenant-colonels or colonels," Mr. Udogov said.

But an AFP correspondent said he had heard what sounded like intense fighting early Monday afternoon coming from the area where FSB offices are located.

Mr. Udogov claimed that Chechen rebels also controlled the nearby headquarters of the pro-Russian government and the Interior Ministry, saying that charred ruins were all that remained of these buildings.

The latest fighting, on the seventh day of heavy fighting in Grozny, came amid a glimmer of hope in the breakaway republic following an agreement between the head of Russia's National Security Council, General Alexander Lebed, and the rebel leadership.

Gen. Lebed, appointed by President Boris Yeltsin as his personal envoy on Chechnya, and rebel Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov, reached "95 per cent" agreement Monday on a scheme to end the 20-month crisis, one of Mr. Maskhadov's spokesmen told AFP.

Russian forces admitted Monday that Chechen separatists controlled most of the Chechen capital, Interfax News Agency reported.

They also conceded that the separatists controlled Argun, Chechnya's third largest town located 15 kilometres east of Grozny.

The pitched battle for control of Grozny, now in its seventh day, has left 202 Russian soldiers dead, according to military sources in Chechnya quoted by the Interfax News Agency Monday.

They did not give any figure for the number of wounded. The last official toll of Russian losses, since separatists launched their assault last Tuesday was made public Sunday.

According to those figures, 169 Russians had been killed, 618 wounded and several dozen had disappeared.

Meanwhile talks between Gen. Lebed and a rebel commander lifted peace hopes in Chechnya Monday.

Despite the first high-level meeting between Moscow and

the rebels since the separatists stormed into Grozny last Tuesday, battles continued in the city which a Russian official said was still controlled by the guerrillas.

"There is artillery fire and automatic-weapon fire. There was artillery fire all night," a local resident told Reuters. "People have stopped going outside this morning. There are no cars moving on the streets, only the fighters."

ITAR-TASS news agency said Russian forces had decided to halt air strikes and would restrict their operations to using assault units to carry out "special operations."

Gen. Lebed's car twice came under fire as he headed for the talks with Mr. Maskhadov. No one was hurt.

It was not clear who was responsible. The press service of the Security Council, the influential group of which Gen. Lebed is the secretary, said his late-night arrival had puzzled several Russian checkpoints, indicating that the shots could have been "friendly fire."

The press service said Gen. Lebed and Mr. Maskhadov had discussed conditions for a ceasefire and that there had been "very constructive dialogue."

Interfax quoted a source in the Chechen high command as saying the Russians had suggested a "fundamentally new approach to regulating the conflict in Chechnya."

Gen. Lebed, named Saturday as President Boris Yeltsin's personal representative in Chechnya, was back in Moscow by midday Monday and immediately briefed Mr. Yeltsin on the talks.

It was Gen. Lebed's first trip to Chechnya since Mr. Yeltsin promoted him on June 18 and signalled that he was now ready to take a leading role in trying to settle the crisis.

In Riyadh, the Saudi press, which reflects the official point of view, called Monday on Russia to stop fighting Chechnya to keep it under Moscow's control.

Al-Yom daily called on Moscow to "quickly reflect on how to resolve the crisis so that Russian soldiers do not pay the price of this unjust war."

"The solution is simple: Moscow must pull out its troops and let the Chechen people determine their future," the paper said.

The daily Okaz called for "the return of wisdom and reason" and for the matter to be resolved "by negotiations, to silence the guns and to end the bloodshed."

Meanwhile, Al Nadwa newspaper said: "It is the duty of the international community to intervene to stop the massacres instead of continuing to watch indifferently."

"But it is to Islamic states that the Chechen people turn to first for support, because these people (as Muslims) say 'God is Greatest' when they fight the Russian occupier."

Jakarta makes sweeping detentions over riots

JAKARTA (R) — The activist blamed for instigating last month's riots in Jakarta and at least nine of his colleagues have been taken into custody, a spokesman for the Indonesian military said Monday.

Brigadier-General Amir Syarifuddin told reporters that Budiman Sudjatmiko, chief of the People's Democratic Party (PRD), and four other people were taken into custody from a house in the Jakarta area Sunday night.

He said one PRD activist was taken into custody Sunday afternoon and four others early Monday.

Gen. Syarifuddin earlier said Sudjatmiko had been detained Monday.

Authorities registered a criminal case against the PRD after the July 27 riots — the worst in the capital for 20 years — and accused the group and its leaders of spreading hatred against President Suharto and the government.

Mr. Sudjatmiko and the four with him did not resist arrest, Gen. Syarifuddin said. None of the 10 detained people had been formally charged but they were being questioned, he added.

An independent labour leader has been charged with subversion, which is punishable by death.

The government has said the PRD infiltrated supporters of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the ousted leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and daughter of Indonesia's late founding President Sukarno.

The riots erupted after police stormed PDI headquarters, evicting Ms. Megawati supporters who had barricaded themselves inside to prevent a takeover of the building by a government-backed party faction.

The Christian-nationalist PDI is one of only three recognised political parties in Indonesia, along with the ruling Golkar and the Muslim-oriented United Development Party.

The government has said the PRD is akin to the banned Communist Party of Indonesia, which has been blamed for an abortive coup attempt in the mid-1960s.

At least 500,000 people were killed in anti-Communist pogroms after the coup attempt.

Meanwhile, authorities were questioning Indonesia's best-known novelist, Pramoedya Ananta Toer, in connection with the riots, his family said.

Mr. Pramoedya, who won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism and Literature in 1995, was summoned to the attorney-general's office Monday and had not returned by the afternoon, his daughter Rina told Reuters.

Mr. Pramoedya, who has been accused by the government of being a communist, was jailed for 14 years after the 1965 coup attempt and is still not permitted to travel abroad.

He has never been convicted of a criminal offence but most of his novels are banned in Indonesia because they are said to include Marxist teachings.

Police said Monday they were questioning two senior PDI leaders, Sophan Sophian and Sukowaluyo, as part of their investigations into the riots. The attorney-general's office said Ms. Megawati's sister Sukmawati was also being questioned.

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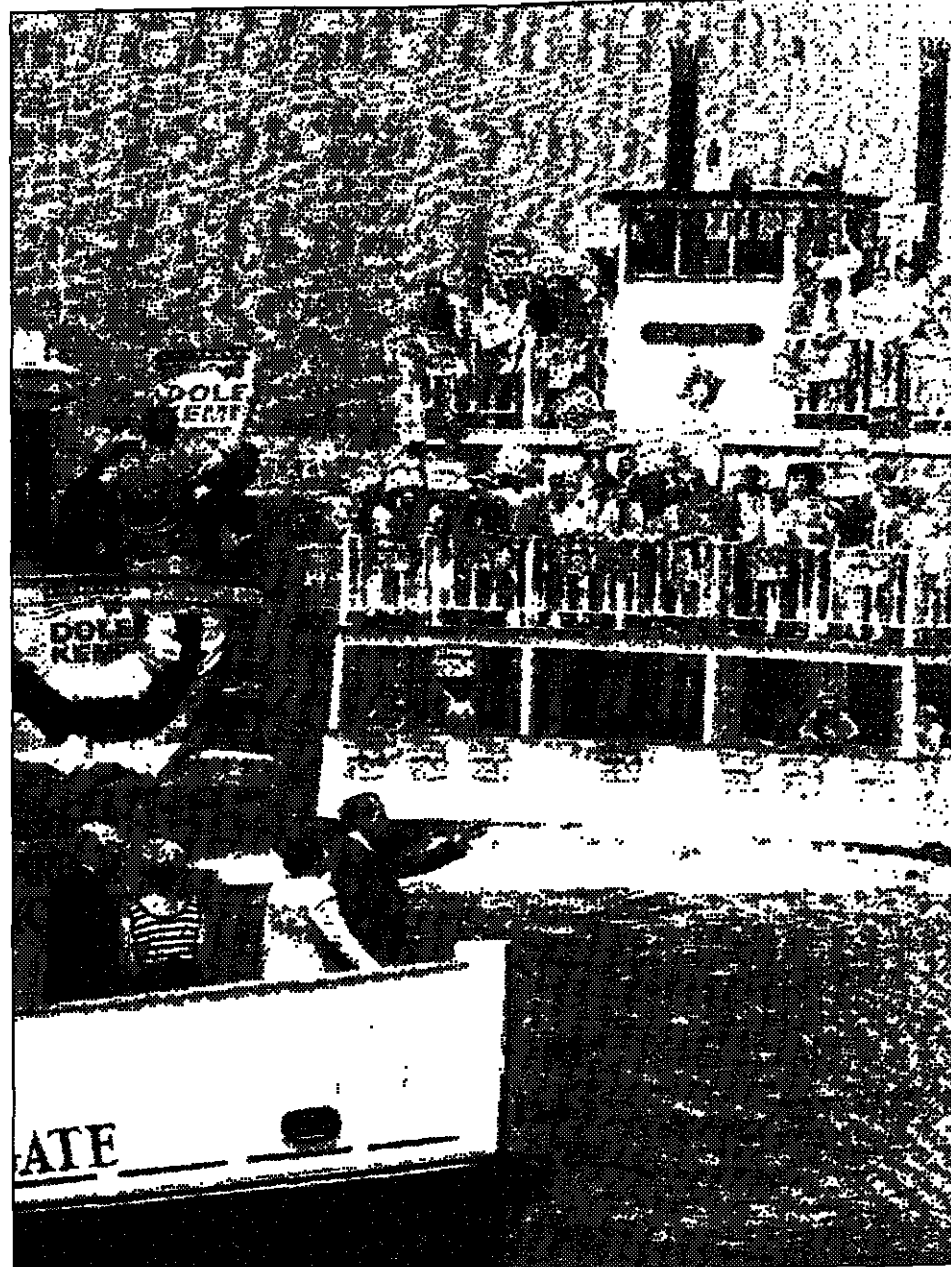
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Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole and his running mate Jack Kemp, along with their wives Elizabeth and Joanne, make their way to the convention centre by way of crossing the San Diego Harbour (Reuters photo)

U.S. Republican party opens convention to nominate Dole

SAN DIEGO (R) — Republicans open a carefully choreographed convention Monday hoping it can be an inspiring love-fest for Bob Dole after right-wing rebel Pat Buchanan called for unity to defeat President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Buchanan's decision delighted the Dole camp and removed a major irritant as they prepared for four days of political speeches and hoopla that they hope will convince Americans Dole can beat incumbent Clinton in the Nov. 5 election.

The highlight of the first day will be a speech by retired armed forces chief General Colin Powell that is intended to show the party is inclusive and tolerant of moderates within its ranks.

Also on the agenda are speeches by former presidents George Bush and Gerald Ford and a tribute to Ronald Reagan that will be capped by a speech from his wife Nancy.

Mr. Reagan, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, will not be present at the convention.

Not scheduled to speak are two governors who oppose the party's anti-abortion stand and Mr. Buchanan, whose 1992 convention speech was thought to have frightened away many potential moderate supporters with its warning that America should wage a war over religious and moral values.

But on the eve of the convention, Mr. Buchanan gave Sen. Dole an unexpected present, calling a truce until election day so that the party could unite against Democrat Clinton.

Mr. Buchanan warned Sen. Dole and his supporters nonetheless that despite the truce, he had not ended his crusade to take over the party. "This is not just their party, it is our party too," he said, declaring that many planks in the Republican platform came out of his campaign.

The rightwing commentator, who was refused a speaking role at the convention for refusing to endorse Sen. Dole, told a rally near San Diego it was time for a truce even though he had not moderated his rightwing "America first" populist views.

"Today, this disputatious party of ours needs...a truce of San Diego. Let us, at least for the next few weeks — nobles and knights and even the peasants with pitchforks — suspend our battles with one another and join together in common cause to defeat Bill Clinton."

Mr. Buchanan, who had thought of leaving the party and making an independent bid for the White House, appeared to rule that out, saying, "We can't walk away. America does not necessarily need a third party. What we need is a fighting second party."

His words came at the 11th hour but were nonetheless welcome to Republicans who want a united front in the uphill fight against the incumbent president, who polls say holds between a nine and 20 point lead over Sen. Dole.

But Mr. Buchanan did not say whether he would endorse Sen. Dole. His campaign manager and sister Bay said he would make that decision on Wednesday or Thursday.

Dole spokesman Nelson Warfield called Mr. Buchanan's truce declaration "terrific. We've had a ceasefire since we locked up the nomination several months ago. We want to train our guns on Bill Clinton and it is very encouraging if the Buchanan brigade is going to be marching in that army."

Meanwhile ABC News said Sunday voters approve of Sen. Dole's choice of Jack Kemp as his running mate, but the selection has failed to give the former Kansas senator a boost in the polls.

A new ABC public opinion poll shows Sen. Dole running 19 percentage



Commentator Patrick Buchanan makes a point during a campaign rally Sunday in Escondido, California. Mr. Buchanan declared a "temporary truce" in his battles with the party (Reuters photo)

points behind President Clinton in a two-way race, about where he was before picking Mr. Kemp and before unveiling his new tax cut plan.

In a three-way race with Texas billionaire Ross Perot running as the Reform Party candidate, Sen. Dole trails Mr. Clinton by 19 percentage points, the ABC poll said, with Mr. Perot winning 12 per cent, Sen. Dole 32 per cent and Mr. Clinton 51 per cent.

About 56 per cent of the 1,007 registered voters questioned Friday and Saturday nights said they approved of Sen. Dole's choice for a running mate. Only 15 per cent said they disapproved. A large 29 per cent, two-thirds of them Clinton supporters, offered no opinion, ABC said. The poll has a margin of error of three per cent.

The poll was the first in a series of daily tracking polls ABC said it was doing during this week's Republican Convention in San Diego.

It said about 14 per cent of those questioned said they were more likely to vote for Sen. Dole because Mr. Kemp will be his running mate. But seven per cent said they were less likely to vote for Sen. Dole. The poll said one of the reasons Sen. Dole was not seven percentage points closer to Mr. Clinton was that most of those who said they were "more likely" to vote for Sen. Dole already were planning to support him.

A melon-choly prelude to Reform convention

LONG BEACH, Calif. (R) — Who says Reform Party isn't fun? Ross Perot? Obviously, the caterers for the national convention, I large honeydew melon carved with the name "Perot" were placed on a buffet table at a reception Sunday. Pa "elders" have been at pains to stress that the reform party is a grass-roots organisation run by its members, and not the Texas billionaire who founded it. The apparent slight to I chard Lamm who is challenging Perot for the Reform Party's presidential nomination was discreetly pointed out to par spokeswoman Sharon Himan. Her face dropped in horror and she rushed behind the buffet to remove the offending melon dropping them unceremoniously to the floor and kicking them under a table. And for Perot it was the start of what he hoped would be a fruitful day.

New York's Santa Claus offers guns for drugs

NEW YORK (R) — Police and federal agents Sunday were looking for near 400 of New York's highest crime areas by a crack using delivery man. Edward Villegas, 37, was taken to have transported the imported Llama 9-mm, .45-calibre and .380-calibre semi-automatic pistols from a Iberia Airlines cargo warehouse at John F. Kennedy International Airport to New Jersey, police said. Instead, police allege he went on a crack smoking binge with another addict and sold or swapped the guns to get money for drugs. "We heard they were calling him Santa Claus on the street," said a law enforcement source. Villegas was arrested Friday in east New York. He will be charged in federal court with firearm violations. Authorities were questioning how Villegas, who served five months in federal prison for drug trafficking, got a job that gave him access to sensitive areas of the airport.

Arafat says he lost in love many times

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, 67, said that he had lost in love many times until he married wife Suha, 34, in 1992. "Really, I was trying to marry many times in my life, but I failed because the circumstances around me were not suitable," the guerrilla-turned-peacemaker told Israel Television Channel 1 in an interview. Mr. Arafat said even now Suha complained of his work which often kept him from home until after midnight. "It is very difficult. I know how she is suffering. Still, she is my second wife. My first wife is my people," Mr. Arafat, who has a one-year-old daughter, Zahwa, with Suha, said. Mr. Arafat said he was away so much that at one stage when an aide brought Zahwa to his office, he did not recognise her. "Yes, I didn't recognise that she is my daughter. I told him, 'who is this girl with you,'" Mr. Arafat said.

Boy jailed for 13 years for taxi driver's murder

MELBOURNE (AFP) — A 14-year-old boy was sentenced Monday to a jail term of 13 years after becoming one of the youngest people ever convicted of murder in Australia. The boy, whose name was not revealed under Australian laws covering young offenders, was found guilty of cutting the throat of Peter Coe, 41, as he sat at the wheel of his taxi cab in February last year. The boy, aged 13 at the time of the murder, will not be eligible for parole for eight years.



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Thousands of anti-drug vigilantes, many of them armed, flee police teargas during a march organised by the People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Reuters photo)

Anti-drug marchers clash with police in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN (R) — Rioting erupted Sunday when South African police and troops moved in on a Cape Town march by armed Muslim vigilantes who have vowed to eradicate drug dealing by local criminal gangs.

Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at the vanguard of some 5,000 marchers, mostly young men wearing headscarves and chanting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest), who tried to break through the fourth roadblock the police had erected.

Soldiers with rifles and gas masks poured in to support the police who had roused 15 armoured trucks to the scene and had started to fire after marchers ignored calls to disperse.

A spokesman from a joint community-police anti-crime unit said nine people had been wounded in the rioting, most of them by a hand grenade which was thrown at the police but which landed in the crowd instead.

One of them was critically injured and another seriously.

Two arrests were made for illegal possession of arms and ammunition, the spokesman, Sedick Peters, said.

The clashes died down when demonstrators withdrew and later headed to Gatesville, the biggest mosque in the area, for evening prayers, some chanting "one gangster, one bullet."

The march's organisers PAGAD — People Against Gangsterism And Drugs — had assured police Saturday they would not march openly with arms but some disregarded the pledge.

"Kill the dealers," read placards they carried.

After the service PAGAD members dispersed in several groups towards well-known gangster areas.

Hostilities in the crime-ridden mixed-race suburbs



Anti-drug demonstrators carry an injured woman who was hurt in a confrontation with police during a march organised by the People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Reuters photo)

of Cape Town erupted a week ago when PAGAD members, filmed by news crews, burned and shot dead alleged druglord Rashad Staggie, saying they could no longer wait for the state to act.

Their march last week began from the Gatesville Mosque.

They later gave the gangs until this Sunday to stop drug dealing, but defiant gang leaders refused and vowed revenge.

Marchers told Reuters they were heading for the home of another alleged drug dealer when the police moved in.

"Democracy is of no value if the soul of the people is consumed by drugs," senior Muslim religious leader Sheikh Mohammad Nazem told them at a stadium rally before the march.

"If we do not do what we have to do then the next generation will be one of drug abusers."

Rashid Staggie, who with his murdered twin led

the Hard Livings gang, earlier led a rival march by 1,000 followers, including columns of guards with shotguns, in violent Manenberg in the Cape Flats, the rough side of town few visitors see.

Gangs spokesman Ivan Waldek, saying he was speaking in the name of Jesus, earlier demanded President Nelson Mandela and his justice minister come to meet them next Wednesday.

"We elected you and now we want you to report back to the people," he told the crowd of young men, some with nooses and hangmen tattooed on their faces.

Pick-up trucks loaded with young men had followed the bright red car in which Rashid Staggie sat behind darkened windows.

His brother's gruesome murder shocked South Africa — but many people, fed up with rampant violent crime and a seeming police inability to stem it, mumbled that it was about time.

"Terribly, the actions of

the killers have evoked public sympathy rather than revulsion," the Sunday Times newspaper commented.

"Most South Africans no longer trust the government to protect them," it added. "They want criminals out and, judging by last week-end's events, preferably dead."

National Police Chief George Fivaz pledged last week to fight gangsterism, saying: "We are absolutely committed to take back the streets from gangsters and from organised syndicates."

The anti-drug marchers and the gangsters in Cape Town come mainly from the mixed-race community, many of whom are Muslim.

The rioting was in the rough suburb of Hanover Park, 15 kilometres from the city centre on the other side of Table Mountain.

PAGAD's instant fame has spawned similar groups in other big cities such as Johannesburg, where they also marched Sunday.

1 killed, 8 injured in bomb blast aboard train in Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) — One person was killed and eight others were injured Monday when a bomb exploded aboard a train in southern Russia, the third such attack on the same train in as many weeks, according to police.

Authorities had earlier said that eight people were injured but later revised their toll to three men and six women.

The ITAR-TASS news agency said one of the victims, a 44-year-old woman who had one of her legs blown off, later succumbed to her injuries in hospital. Three others were also hospitalised, but their condition was not serious, the agency said.

The woman who died had boarded the train travelling from Astrakhan to Volgograd minutes before it left the small station of Trubnya.

The bomb, consisting of one kilogramme of TNT, had been placed under the second wagon of train number 606, authorities said. The device went off at dawn just after the train headed to its final destination of Volgograd 15 kilometres away.

Investigators said they were baffled by the attack, the third in the last three weeks, and raised the possibility of a personal vendetta. On July 25, a bomb had exploded on the same train,

without causing any casualties.

Shortly thereafter, a similar device was discovered and defused, the intelligence services said without giving any more details.

"It is difficult at this time to explain these attacks," investigators said.

They said they were looking into the possibility that whoever was responsible had a personal vendetta as the attacks targeted the same train with the same personnel on board at each occasion.

Police earlier had also speculated on Chechen rebels being behind the attacks.

Chechen separatist war-

lord, Salman Raduyev had announced on the eve of the July 25 blast that he was launching "large-scale war against railways" across Russia, in an ominous warning that the 19-month bloody conflict in Chechnya may reach deep inside Russia.

Mr. Raduyev had already claimed responsibility for two July bombings on trolley-buses in Moscow in which 33 people were injured.

Chechen rebels have previously staged two dramatic mass hostage-takings outside Chechnya — in the southern Russian town of Budenovsk in June 1995 and in neighbouring Dagestan in January.

Sri Lankan temple blast injures 37

COLOMBO (AFP) — More than two dozen civilians were killed in fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels in northern Sri Lanka while a bomb ripped through a crowded Hindu temple elsewhere and wounded 37 people, officials said Monday.

Officials also called for urgent supplies of food and medicine for some 200,000 refugees in the embattled North who were facing starvation.

At least 25 civilians were killed and another 105 wounded in an intense battle that entered its ninth day Monday, said S. Thillanadarajah, the main civil administrator in the northern district of Kilinochchi.

Government forces have mounted a major offensive against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to capture the town of Kilinochchi, but a ferocious counter attack pinned them down, officials said.

"The shelling and aerial bombardments are still continuing," the top civil administrator said in a report made available here Monday. "About 25 (civilian) people have been killed, but actual figures cannot be ascertained."

He said food and water was desperately running low and people could face starvation if the situation continued. There was also a danger of serious health problems due to poor sanitation, he said.

Military officials here said the government had responded to the plea for aid and sent 40 truckloads of food and medicine to the rebel-dominated Kilinochchi area during the week-end.

It was the first consignment of food from a government-held area to rebel territory since the Tigers overran a military garrison on July 18 and killed some 1,300 troops and escaped with an armory worth \$50 million.

Mr. Thillanadarajah said government employees in Kilinochchi had also become refugees because of the war. The LTTE maintains its political headquarters in Kilinochchi but government servants there are paid by the state.

Official figures show that 50 soldiers were killed and 70 wounded since troops mounted their latest offensive to take Kilinochchi eight days ago. The military estimates that over 300 rebels were killed.

However, the Tigers said they lost only 51 fighters and placed military losses at more than 100. The Tigers said more than 30 civilians died in long-range attacks of the army.

Meanwhile, a powerful bomb ripped through the Marnagam Hindu Temple in the eastern town of Batticaloa Sunday, wounding 33 devotees and four police constables, officials here said.



Residents from the village of Bellaghy sit in the road as they refuse to let a Protestant march pass along the town's main street Sunday. About 200 Catholics took part in the protest, with around 100 police, dressed in riot gear and holding shields, facing them. The town is about 90 per cent Catholic and they regard Protestant marches as offensive and threatening (Reuters photo)

Tense weekend reaches peaceful end in N. Ireland

BELLAGHY, Northern Ireland (R) — A tense weekend of demonstrations in Northern Ireland ended peacefully Monday when a Protestant march was allowed to pass through a largely Roman Catholic village after a lengthy stand-off.

Police and clergymen brokered an end to a 20-hour confrontation between pro-Irish Catholics and Protestants loyal to Britain, whose parade then moved through the village of Bellaghy with none of the violence that had been feared.

Bellaghy, about 50 kilometres northwest of Belfast, had been the final suburban holdout after Protestant and Catholic marches across the province went ahead peacefully.

Police had feared the weekend's parades would spark a repeat of widespread rioting a month ago when their attempts to block a Protestant parade provoked the worst riots seen in the province for years.

"This is a victory for common sense," said Francis Molloy, a local official of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas. "What was important was that this happened without anybody losing face."

Despite being allowed to stage their march in limited form, the Protestants were less happy. "It's as good as we can get," said one marcher.

"We decided we would not press the issue," said Robert Overend, a leader of the Royal Black Preceptory Order, a fiercely pro-British organisation that organised the parade.

The issues are similar in all the marches. Catholics feel threatened and insulted by Protestant marchers, many commemorating historical military victories over Catholic forces. Protestants who want the province to remain British regard marches as an essential expression of their loyalty to the crown.

Many marches were rerouted over the weekend to take Protestants away from Catholic areas.

A huge Protestant parade in Northern Ireland's second city Londonderry was peaceful Saturday. On Sunday thousands of Catholics marched without incident through Belfast, raising hope of a new impetus for peace talks.

Multi-party peace talks are due to resume in September after a summer recess.

Irish and British newspapers commended the common sense of the communities who had negotiated with each other.

In Bellaghy, the Protestants processed to their meeting hall about half-way along their planned route, went back to their church and then dispersed quietly. Mostly middle-aged men, they wore dark suits, burgundy sashes and black bowler hats.

Catholic crowds drew back as the Protestants, led by a band of men and young girls playing accordions and drums, walked up to a phalanx of police and journalists then turned slowly around in the street.

"Back behind the line — we want no shouting," Paul Smith a local Catholic organiser told nationalist demonstrators through a loudspeaker.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, said in Belfast Sunday: "All of us know this has got nothing to do with marching. It's got to do with triumphalism, with trampling over other people's rights."

He said talks between the two communities had shown the way forward for the tattered peace process. "It vindicates and validates what Sinn Féin have been saying all along — that the way to resolve political problems is through dialogue."

Sinn Féin is excluded from the multi-party talks on the future of the province until the IRA declares a halt to a bombing campaign which it resumed last February after a 17-month ceasefire.

Burundians, foreigners scramble for last flight

BUJUMBURA (R) — Anxious foreigners and Burundians scrambled Monday for tickets on the last scheduled commercial flight out of the sanctions-hit central African state of Burundi.

At the Sabena office in the capital, Burundian businessmen in crumpled suits, Rwandans, Belgians and Western aid workers formed long queues for tickets for two flights to Brussels Tuesday.

"My wife and I are going on a small holiday," said a Burundian civil servant, clutching a leather briefcase, adding he had already sent his two small children to the United States.

The rush for tickets on the two planes, which can take more than 600 people, was increased by people transferring tickets from an Air France flight out which was cancelled Saturday.

A U.S. embassy official said the ambassador was trying to organise a large military plane to fly in from Kenya's capital Nairobi to pick up those foreigners unable to leave on Sabena.

The Sabena planes stop en route to Brussels in Entebbe, Uganda, for refuelling but airline officials said Uganda refused to allow any passengers to get off there because of sanctions.

Burundi has been cut off from all its neighbours since Zaire Friday became the last state to say it had imposed sanctions to force a return to civilian rule after a July 25 army coup.

Burundi's new military ruler Pierre Buyoya says the Tutsi army seized power from Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya to avert genocide and says he is confident Burundi can survive.

U.N. officials said they were negotiating with Kenyan authorities to bring in a U.N. plane from Nairobi to evacuate between 30 and 70 non-essential staff ordered out Friday.

"The situation keeps changing. It's a panic situation," said a U.N. official of the efforts by foreigners to leave Burundi.

More than 150,000 people have been killed in Burundi in three years of massacres

and civil war between minority Tutsis and ethnic Hutus, who make up 85 per cent of the population.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the voluntary repatriation of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees from camps in northern Burundi continued Monday after they obtained a waiver from Rwanda to allow them across the border.

Lines formed Monday at several Bujumbura petrol stations but there appeared to be no real shortages of fuel. Some garages voluntarily rationed each car to 10 litres (about two gallons) to conserve stocks.

The Nairobi-based East African Weekly said Monday fuel worth \$100,000 was rerouted from Burundi to Rwanda days after leaders agreed on sanctions but before Rwanda implemented them.

It said the move was suspicious but it had no evidence that Burundi has a Tutsi-led government and Tutsi-dominated army, diverted the

fuel to its southern neighbour.

In Bujumbura shops, women snapped up detergent, cooking oil, onions and tomatoes from Tanzania and Kenya Monday. Burundi produces no salt so it has already vanished from shelves.

Hutus who declined to be identified accused the army of killing dozens of Hutus at the weekend at Carama village just outside Bujumbura. There was no army comment available.

Hutus being driven by troops to a squalid camp outside the capital said they were uneasy about the future under the army.

"The war isn't over. Killers remain under army command," said Tharcisse Ntibarirarawa, a former Hutu governor of the central Gitega province and a recent arrival in the camp.

He said he fled Gitega after Tutsis asked army commanders to kill him. He lives in the dust and dirt of the camp with 5,000 Hutus in grubby tents made from tarpaulins draped over sticks.

TWA probe focusing on fire damage at plane's centre

NEW YORK (R) — The probe into the mysterious crash of TWA Flight 800 has turned to the centre of the plane where heavy fire damage has been detected, investigators said Sunday.

Divers off Long Island, New York, have recovered all four luggage containers from the Boeing 747's front cargo hold, but they did not provide any breakthroughs in determining the cause of the crash, James Kallstrom, the senior FBI agent at the crash site, told a briefing Sunday.

Because the plane broke into two pieces with the forward section falling first into the sea, there had been speculation the explosion occurred in the front of the plane.

Robert Francis, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), said at the briefing investigators were interested in the area around the centre fuel tank, but were still searching for much of that section.

"It remains of interest. There is a lot of fire damage in that area," Mr. Francis said of the central section.

By the end of the weekend, officials estimated they had recovered about 50 per cent of the wreckage lying 35 metres underwater off Long Island, including three of four engines.

On Thursday Francis said experts trying to determine the cause of the disaster would begin reassembling the centre section of the Boeing 747 — from the aft end of the forward fuselage back toward the rear of the wings — before rebuilding other sections. The plane is being rebuilt in a former Grumman aircraft factory hangar on Long Island.

The plane exploded in a fireball and plunged into the Atlantic 11-1/2 minutes after taking off from New York on July 17, killing all 230 passengers and crew.

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Landmark visit

AS THE challenges facing the Arab Nation mount to a point where closer cooperation and coordination among all Arab states become a necessity, the visit which His Majesty King Hussein concluded to Saudi Arabia yesterday and the talks he held with King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz come to reflect the two leaders' understanding of the need to put all differences aside and work together to secure a better future for their countries and the rest of the region.

It is obvious that Jordanian-Saudi relations have come a long way since they were strained by the different stands the two countries took on the Gulf war. Relations have improved slowly but steadily since 1990. The slow pace of reconciliation indicates that the two sides have addressed all points of contention in order to ensure that current and future ties will be based on solid and clear foundations.

Full restoration of ties is for the benefit of the whole Arab World and for peace and stability in the whole region. Efforts should thus be encouraged to put inter-Arab relations back on track and within an institutionalised framework that recognises the different but confluent interests of individual Arab states.

On the bilateral front, Jordan and Saudi Arabia can cooperate on a number of issues ranging from trade and economics to security and shared strategic concerns. The opening of the markets of the two states to the labour and goods of each other makes a great deal of economic sense. Saudi Arabia has a large market that can help — and benefit from — both qualified Jordanian labour and certain exports that can fill the need of the Saudi market with competitive prices. So can Jordan absorb many Saudi products which can be sold here at prices lower than those offered by other producers. Closer economic cooperation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia offers a clear case for mutual benefits.

So can the two states ensure a better and more secure life for their peoples if they work together to face the many security challenges that have started to threaten the region. The Kingdom and Saudi Arabia have long borders that cannot be secured without the cooperation of the two. Many drug lords have started to eye the Saudi market and have tried to penetrate it through the Jordanian border. Jordan has aborted many of these efforts. But complete success in eliminating the problem can only be attained if Jordanian and Saudi security officials can cooperate without any political constraints or restraints.

The threat of terrorism also is a joint problem that calls for the pooling of all available resources to thwart. Jordan has enough expertise in dealing with this threat and Saudi Arabia, which is facing more security challenges, can benefit from the Kingdom's experience in this regard. Jordan has repeatedly warned that terrorism is a plague that must be fought with vigour and determination and has offered to cooperate with all states to combat it. A joint Jordanian-Saudi initiative to stand up to terrorism will definitely make a difference in that joint battle.

King Hussein told reporters upon arrival home from Saudi Arabia that his talks with King Fahd covered all issues of mutual interest. The results of these talks, the King said, are positive and encouraging.

That is good news, not just for Jordan and Saudi Arabia but for all those who rightly believe in the viability of joint Arab action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i criticised the Ministry of Agriculture for ignoring the recommendations of a recent symposium on wheat production in Jordan, accusing the ministry of shelving these recommendations which call among other things for the creation of a national wheat council to supervise and steer national projects for the production of cereals. Mahmoud Jbour said that the minister of agriculture did not only shelve the recommendations but also failed to bring up the subject at a Cabinet meeting in order to help the country overcome its present difficulties in cereal production and the question of subsidies for wheat and bread. Given the fact that recent reports sounded the alarm about the shrinking of lands in Canada and the United States normally provide 13 per cent of the world's cereals, the government ought to take immediate and urgently-needed decisions to encourage and boost cereal production on the largest possible scale, he demanded. Expressing the belief that political factors lie behind adoption of this urgently-needed policy, the writer said, that unless Jordan took speedy action in this concern it will be facing a grave situation in the not distant future.

The View from Fourth Circle

Turkey, the Middle East, and the turning of centuries

By Rami G. Khouri

ISTANBUL, Turkey — This country is one of the most important places in the world to observe today, because it is simultaneously dealing with the challenges of economic adjustment, political democracy, the religious-secular dichotomy and the ethnic/cultural demands of a large Kurdish minority. What happens here in the coming decade may tell us much about the condition and direction of the rest of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, where similar issues challenge peoples and leaderships.

Turkey, along with only Iran and Egypt in the greater Middle East, enjoys that powerful combination of national bulk, distinct identity, and cultural authenticity that defines a modern nation-state as well as an ancient civilisation. But only Turkey, of all the major Middle Eastern states, continues in a serious way to deal with its assorted challenges while maintaining its commitment to the principles of a modern, secular and democratic state. The fact that the Turkish army has ruled three times since 1960, and in every case has restored democratic rule, is both a credit to Turkey's democratic vitality and a sign of its chronic vulnerability.

The advent of an Islamist-led coalition government in Turkey, headed by Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan of the Refah Party, means that we now have the first ever NATO member state with an Islamist leader. This has occurred only about two years since the former NATO secretary general suggested that Islamism was probably NATO's most serious threat. The coming to power of the Turkish Islamist party in recent years has been a gradual, systematic, and very logical process. The Refah Party slowly increased its electoral support between 1987 and 1995 from seven to 21 per cent. In the last parliamentary elections, Refah won more votes than any other party. This is a sign both of its appeal to disgruntled masses of increasingly economically distressed Turks, and of the slow, steady loss of credibility by the more established political parties.

Turkey's politics reflect the dynamism of a modern, secular, predominantly democratic state in which political freedoms eventually affirm the primacy of the collective identities that define most people in this region. With the end of the Cold War, the continuing fiscal stress of governments, and the loosening of ideological and military-economic bonds that had kept the Mideast region virtually frozen in its mid-century configuration of states, people throughout Turkey and the wider Middle East turn again to primordial bonds of kinship, faith and cultural ethnicity to achieve the self-expression, protection, and hope that they cannot always garner from the institutions of the modern nation-state.

Looking out over the entire Mideast, we see Christian, Jewish and Muslim religions playing a more explicit, often militant, role in intra-state and inter-state bargaining for power and security; at the same time, ethnic-based groups such as Kurds, Druze, Berbers and others make explicit political claims within and among the states of the region. The Western-dominated global media tends to view this as a novel and often worrying trend; but the very ancient history of this and other regions in the South suggests that the assertion of identity as a vector in the dynamics of nation-building is neither new nor surprising. Turkey is the most advanced and important example in this region of all of these trends.

The nature and scale of Turkey's domestic challenges are probably affirmations of their authenticity, awkward as this fact may be for many Turks and their friends around the world. While neither support nor oppose the Islamists or the Kurdish political activists, it seems to me that neither can be written off merely as troublemakers, an isolated minority, or agents of foreign plotters. The war between the Kurds and the state security forces in eastern Turkey has cost tens of thousands of lives in the last dozen years; around a quarter of a million security forces have been mobilised to fight the Kurdish insurgents, in Turkey and in neighbouring lands. Somewhere around 2,000 settlements and communities have been destroyed in the war, and millions of people have been made refugees within their own country. This is not a skirmish with a small band of rebels or terrorists. This is a serious domestic military and cultural war whose outcome will help to determine the nature of the Turkish state — a state whose modern political and national configuration by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk over seven decades ago now requires reassessment and perhaps adjustment (or, as Eric Rouleau recently wrote in Foreign Policy journal, "...the (Turkish) republic is in desperate need of an overhaul"). Turkey's experience is very important for others in this region, because it is so far ahead of the rest of us in terms of reconciling the different demands of secularism, modernism, democracy, religion and ethnicity.

It seems to me that we are not merely witnessing in Turkey a revival of ancient forms of communal identity based on religion and culture; we may also be seeing the more recent phenomenon of the Euro-manufactured and globally-exported secular nation-state starting to fray at the edges, to reveal the limitations of its global relevance. Secular nation-states will not disappear; rather, the young, novel secular nation-state model will have to adapt itself to much deeper, older and more prevalent identities that will not disappear, because they are so old, so strong, and so

meaningful to people.

Turkey forces us to accept that if we seek stable communities and material well-being, we must deal with indigenous communal and religious identity, alongside other important requisites such as democracy, free market economics, social justice, and regional cooperation. It is not by accident, I would suggest, that the two most advanced secular, democratic nation-states in the Middle East, namely Turkey and Israel, both find themselves today challenged from within by the demands of indigenous religious and ethnic/cultural forces.

Israel is experiencing a lively debate between religious Orthodox Jews and more secular Jews who have different visions of the role of religion in state and society, while Turkey is similarly dealing with a homegrown demand by Islamists for greater expression of religious sentiment and values within the proven, secular legacy of the Ataturkist state. On the ethnic/cultural front, Turkey is grappling with the demands of its large Kurdish minority for greater autonomy and recognition, while in Israel the native Arab community is using the political arena to demand more equitable treatment in terms of political power, cultural expression, and public expenditures for basic social services.

Democratic systems permit personal and communal demands to be expressed in a peaceful, organised manner; they also offer a mechanism for society as a whole to respond to those legitimate demands in a non-violent manner based on honest dialogue and reasonable compromise. Freedom and democracy in the Middle East protect personal rights, as they do in the Western liberal democracies; they also guarantee that deeply anchored, indigenous communal identities will demand to play the game alongside the more modern phenomena of personal rights.

The recent and contemporary history of the Middle East teaches us the crucial importance of inclusion and participation for all religious and cultural/ethnic groups as mandatory principles for domestic peace and regional stability. Promoting economic growth and political power-sharing are no longer sufficient to ensure peace either in expanding economies or in states that have become poorer and weaker, and where tribal and religious identities reassert themselves as proven vehicles for the expression of people's fears, hopes, needs, and rights. The fate of Turkish lands depended heavily on the wider Middle East at the turn of the last century, and it is likely to do so again at the turn of this century.

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Israel's economic success depends on regional peace

By Thomas L. Friedman

DURING THE Israeli election campaign, there was one commercial the Likud Party used every night on television. It was the sound of breaking glass, simulating the sound of a terrorist incident, followed by old news footage of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres walking hand in hand.

I don't think we'll be seeing that commercial anymore. Last week, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy went to the Gaza Strip and warmly shook hands with Mr. Arafat on behalf of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government. As Israeli commentators noted the next day: "There was no sound of broken glass."

The sound you do hear coming out of Israel these days is the sound of Mr. Netanyahu bumping up against the reality of the peace process. So far, he seems to be trying to avoid doing anything that would derail the peace process, while at the same time avoiding anything that might advance it and cause a split in his right-wing party. He is probing how far he can go towards implementing his campaign rhetoric without blowing up the peace process that has brought Israel so many tangible economic benefits and openings to the world, which they don't want to sacrifice.

Only when Mr. Netanyahu gets done probing and starts making decisions, or faces a crisis, will we know whether he is just a more articulate version of Yitzhak Shamir, only looking for ways to stand still, or whether he is a

Menachem Begin, capable of historic decisions, even though they might cause splits within his party and people.

Mr. Netanyahu's evolution will be shaped in large part by Wall Street and the Arab street.

Mr. Netanyahu presented himself in the United States as an apostle of free-market capitalism and privatisation, eager to sell off state-owned Israeli companies to global and local investors. But what Mr. Netanyahu obviously has not thought through is how he is going to privatise Israel's economy while nationalising its politics.

Privatisation requires Israel to be connected to the global market and to have a stable political environment that will attract foreign investors. Nationalising Israel's politics — by freezing the peace process, building new settlements and shunning Arafat — will lead to renewed friction between Israelis and Arabs.

The vast majority of Israel's business leaders voted against Netanyahu because they understood how important the peace process has been for their country. Israel's economy grew at a stunning rate of 7.1 per cent in 1995. Last year, it attracted \$2 billion in foreign investment — triple the year before.

But since Netanyahu's election, the Tel Aviv stock market has lost 16 per cent of its value, largely because of investor uncertainty about his economic policies and concerns that his global economics will clash with his nationalistic politics. Israeli companies cannot afford that sort of uncertainty.

In the first five months of 1996, Israeli companies raised about \$900 million for new investment. Some

75 per cent of that had to come from Wall Street, because there isn't enough local capital. Israel cannot keep growing at its current pace without Wall Street. Wall Street wants stability, and you're not going to have that without a meaningful peace process.

Yes, violence will also attend any peace process. We've seen that. But terrorism under Rabin and Peres never really shook the Tel Aviv stock market, because investors viewed such violence as going against the trend of events. But if violence erupts again now, with no peace process in sight, it will be viewed by many investors as a harbinger of things to come, and it could have a very negative economic impact.

As for the Arab street, Netanyahu seems to believe that Israel's military superiority over the Arab states will eventually lead to Arab passivity and a peace process based on "peace for peace" instead of "land for peace."

Israeli leaders Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan had a similar view after the victory in the 1967 war. The 1973 war cured them of that view. Shamir and Ariel Sharon peddled the same illusion after Israel evicted the PLO from Lebanon in 1982. That led to the intifada.

Sooner or later, if the feeling takes hold that this Israeli government does not want to treat Arabs with equality or keep open the prospect of land for peace, there will be a reaction. It may not be from the Arab governments. It will simply erupt from below, and it will spoil the tranquillity of both Israel and America — sort of like the sound of breaking glass.

The New York Times

Better telephone services

To the Editor:

THE ARTICLE by Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraireh (Aug. 10) brings to the surface the status of public services by governmental agencies — telecommunications, customs, electricity, post, and tourism. The only agency that has shown considerable improvement in efficient service over the past years is the Passport Department. Which makes one think that improvement is possible. The article by Mr. Saraireh reviews the history of the telecommunications sector and its future plans. This is all well and good, but as an ordinary citizen the changes I have noted over the past 30 years in applying for a regular telephone line are none whatsoever.

First, if you want to apply for a telephone line you must go to it alone as getting someone to apply for you requires so many signatures and bank confirmations that will inevitably make you change your mind.

Second, you must submit a petition or an application accompanied by documents about your residence. If it is yours then a deed is required; if rented, a copy of the rent contract will do.

Third, after going to the TCC office several times, one is told that they are just now processing the applications of 1990 (this depends on the area). The applicant is then told that if the request is urgent he/she must pay several times the ordinary fee. If the applicant agrees to do this, he/she is told that there are no lines, and one begins to wonder whether it is possible to put the application and its number among his/her assets and in his/her will so that one's children might inherit it.

Telecommunications is a most profitable business and the returns on the investment are substantial and immediate. Over the past 25 years the TCC should have been constructed in such a way that all one needs to do to get a phone line is to apply, and apply by phone.

No red-tape, no bureaucracy. No deeds, rent agreements, nor limitations on the number of lines one desires. One should be able to call the TCC, give his name and address, maybe give his national number, and thus be able to get a line — pronto. The TCC should ask if more than one line is needed. After all it is profitable to sell more than one line. There is no doubt in my mind that if TCC was a private — and I dare say like an American — company (ATT, MCI, SPRINT, or the like) with profit motives the ordinary citizen would be better and more cheaply served.

If, in the future, the telecommunications services are entrusted to a company, as above-mentioned, within one year the service I envision will become a reality. After all, all of us want a better Jordan.

Suhayl S. Saleh, MD
Amman

To the Editor:

HOW LONG do we have to wait to reap the fruits of peace? And what exactly is the real definition of this durable and comprehensive peace which would benefit future generations? There is something amiss because the prevailing trend among our generation, to say the least, is to build our future elsewhere. However, other future generations might recount a different story.

The real issue to be addressed is not to go down in history books as "actors of peace," but rather to fight the symptoms of "brain-drain." Our priority should be to build an economy that caters to the needs of its citizens fairly and equally — after all, human capital is any country's most valuable asset. International marketing should come later.

I read in local newspapers that Jordan is doing well economically. I may not be a distinguished expert, but I would like to think that I know enough to realise that the picture is not as bright as it may seem. With a per capita GDP that is one-eighth that of Israel, and a tendency to import double the amount exported, perhaps our applause is premature. It is highly unlikely that the long-awaited peace will benefit us when our national currency remains to be anchored by the Central Bank, when our manner of debt-repayment hangs solely on political resolutions, when our democracy remains non-institutionalised, when the public sector continues to overshadow the private sector, and finally, when our national policies predominantly favour foreigners. The list goes on.

Our era is the beginning of the end of geography as we know it. Boundaries are diminishing and economies are closing in on each other. Unless we establish "sustainable economic deepening," we may as well kiss our "durable peace" good-bye. To achieve this, our focus should be on three main angles: Creating competition, shifting to exports, and investing heavily in education, particularly primary education. In other words, we should learn from the East Asian experience.

Two decades ago, a distinguished Arab statesman, well ahead of his time, said, "Democracy is but freedom, and freedom is what gives man a sense of security." The statement continues to fall on deaf ears. Maybe we should stop looking ahead of us into the misty future and focus our attention on the decaying present. Freedom should come from within. Freedom breeds wealth — not necessarily material wealth — which ultimately breeds competition and prosperity, in turn bringing along a durable peace — a real one. Or so believed East Asia when moulding its economic miracle.

Niveen Abbosh, Amman

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Netanyahu: Syrian goodwill in Lebanon would win Israeli trust

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested Monday that if Syria helped Israel pull troops out of Lebanon, Israel might be more flexible regarding Syria's demand for a return of the Golan Heights.

Mr. Netanyahu said Israel would be willing to pull troops out of the border strip it controls in South Lebanon within weeks if Syria, which dominates Lebanon, allowed an agreement that would secure quiet along the border.

"We say we want to leave Lebanon and Syria is backing Hizbollah," said Mr. Netanyahu, referring to the militia that is waging a costly guerrilla war against Israel in Lebanon.

"What would happen in the perception of the Israeli public, vis-a-vis Syria, if Syria facilitated such a peaceful resolution of the situation? Syria's position would be enhanced in Israel," Mr. Netanyahu told Palestinian reporters at his Jerusalem office.

"This is in the interest of all sides. Anybody who wants peace should want to

defuse the Lebanese quagmire."

In five years of on-and-off peace talks, Syria has insisted that Israel return the Golan Heights, which Israel seized in 1967, in exchange for peace.

The previous Labour government appeared close to accepting such a condition, but Mr. Netanyahu has vigorously opposed it.

Last week, Mr. Netanyahu suggested resolving the Lebanon issue first would be a better way to build confidence between Israel and Syria. He said Israel's conditions for leaving Lebanon were disarming Hizbollah, Lebanese army deployment along the border with Israel and preserving the Israeli-allied South Lebanon army.

But Syria, which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon and has effective veto power over any Lebanon deal, apparently views Israel's 14-year embroilment in Lebanon as useful leverage toward regaining the Golan.

"We could arrive at an agreement and withdraw from Lebanon in weeks if there was a desire by the Lebanese government and

Syria," Mr. Netanyahu stressed. "We can resolve this with goodwill in a very short time."

Mr. Netanyahu, who met with Palestinian reporters for the first time since taking office two months ago, said he wanted to "open as many channels as we can to the Arab World" in order to break down stereotypes on both sides.

He said the government will resume negotiations with the Palestinian Authority later this week. Unsolved issues to be discussed include withdrawal from the Hebron, the last West Bank town under Israeli occupation, he said.

Mr. Netanyahu struck a more moderate tone, arguing his "interest is not to delay" but to defuse the security problem in Hebron, where 450 Jewish settlers live among 94,000 Palestinians.

"If we simply redeploy in Hebron and we are wrong, and there is an outbreak of terrorism... that could explode the peace process," said Mr. Netanyahu. He did not say what his changes he would demand in the existing withdrawal accord.

Israel to boost colonies with 298 mobile homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has approved placing 298 mobile homes in Jewish settlements on occupied lands for public and educational use ahead of the school year, his office said.

The move was the first on settlements since the new headline government of Benjamin Netanyahu lifted restrictions on Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the previous government.

"In a discussion conducted today, Minister Mordechai approved, ahead of the school year, the placing of mobile homes at educational and public institutions in (the West Bank)," a statement issued by Mr. Mordechai's office said.

It said 115 would be placed at education institutions, 100 at a vocational school in the ariel settlement, and 83 at public institutions.

The government ousted by Mr. Netanyahu in May 29 elections banned new settlement building in 1992 and restricted most settlement expansion to in and around Jerusalem and along the pre-1967 Middle East war border.

Mr. Netanyahu said earlier on Monday his government had yet to decide to allow new road or settlement building in the areas occupied since 1967. Palestinians warn the new settlement policy could kill peace efforts. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called the Israeli decision to lift restrictions on settlement expansion the biggest danger to the stalled peace process. Egypt's representative to the Arab League

said on Israel's decision to renew building Jewish settlements on Palestinian areas is threatening to destroy the peace process.

Ambassador Mahmoud Mortada also told reporters the new settlement policy totally negated final status talks between the Palestinians and Israel and proved the flippancy of the Jewish state's attitude towards peace.

Mr. Arafat said on Sunday he would turn to international arbitration if his peace goals were frustrated by Mr. Netanyahu's firm rejection of a Palestinian state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital.

On Saturday, Mr. Arafat told Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak he was "very disturbed" by the settlement issue which he likened to a torpedo hitting the peace accord his Palestinian liberation organisation signed with Israel in 1993.

Israel and the PLO started in May final status negotiations on thorny issues such as the fate of Jerusalem, settlements, borders and water. These talks have yet to resume under Mr. Netanyahu.

The Israeli government will pay \$5 million to Jewish settlers to compensate for the Oslo accords granting limited autonomy to the Palestinians, Interior Minister Eli Shussman announced Monday.

"I have promised 15 million shekels (\$5 million) to settlers for damages suffered as a result of the Oslo accords, which put them in a difficult situation, notably concerning their security," Mr. Shussman told Israel Radio.

Hamas says Israel to free Yassin

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israel will release Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), within days, a senior official in the group said Monday.

"Israel is going to release Sheikh Yassin in the coming days," said Mahmud Zahar, a top Hamas official and spokesman for the movement in Gaza City.

Dr. Zahar said the decision to release Sheikh Yassin, 61, was taken following the discovery last month of the remains of an Israeli soldier, Ilan Saadoun, who was kidnapped and killed by Hamas militants in 1989.

Saadoun's remains were located based on information uncovered by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of Yasser Arafat and after Sheikh Yassin appealed to Hamas activists to reveal their whereabouts.

Dr. Zahar, speaking to reporters, said Sheikh Yassin's release would take place "after the burial of Saadoun's remains."

Funeral services for Saadoun were scheduled to be held later Monday in the southern city of Ashkelon after the army Sunday announced that DNA tests had proven the authenticity of his remains.

Dr. Zahar said Israel was also concerned about reports of Sheikh Yassin's failing health. "Medical reports say that Sheikh Yassin's health is deteriorating, and Israel is afraid he is going to die in prison," he said.

Dr. Zahar did not say how he learned of Sheikh Yassin's reportedly imminent release.

Israel's prison authority said Sheikh Yassin was currently being held at a medical facility controlled by the Shin Bet internal security services at Ramla, near Tel Aviv.

An PNA official refused to comment on reports of his imminent release.

Ex-ambassador to Switzerland faces embezzlement charges

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The former Jordanian ambassador to Switzerland, Akram Barakat, is expected to go on trial soon on charges of embezzlement of state funds and misuse of office for personal gains, legal sources said Monday.

They said prosecutor Fuad Daradkeh had completed investigations into the case and handed over the case file to the general prosecutor's office for proceedings. A date for the opening of the trial is expected to be set as soon as the judiciary resumes work next month after a summer recess.

Mr. Barakat, who served as the Kingdom's ambassador in Bern between 1990 and 1994, was recalled to Amman and remanded into custody in January 1995. He has been refused bail and remains in detention at the Swaga prison.

The charge sheet against Mr. Barakat, published in the local press, says that the former diplomat embezzled/misappropriated more than JD 334,000 in government funds.

The amount includes, according to the charge sheet, the rent for the embassy that the Foreign Ministry transferred to Bern but was not paid to the landlord, a loan taken by Mr. Barakat from a Bern bank and settled from the accounts of the embassy, proceeds from the unapproved sale of an embassy vehicle and interest on delayed payments as well as damages claimed by those who were owed money by the embassy.

The charge sheet says that Mr. Barakat, in his capacity as ambassador, was directly in control of funds transferred to Bern by the Foreign Ministry to cover the rent and other expenses of the embassy but he did not channel the money to its intended purposes.

The affair came to light when the owner of the embassy building wrote directly to the Foreign Ministry asking for payment of rent, which, according to ministry records, had already been transferred to Bern.

The Foreign Ministry referred the matter to the Prime Ministry, which in turn handed over the issue to the general prosecutor.

A committee representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Audit Bureau and the Ministry of Finance visited Bern and audited the books and bank accounts of the embassy. They also carried out an inventory of the assets of the mission.

The results of the audit, coupled with testimonies by embassy staff and others, led to the case against Mr. Barakat, who served for nearly 12 years as head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington before being appointed as ambassador to Switzerland.

According to the charge sheet, Mr. Barakat, who was living in Bern with his wife and two children, transferred the rent to his own personal account and did not pay the owner of the building.

The charge sheet says that the committee also found that Mr. Barakat had taken a loan from the same bank where the embassy maintained its accounts and that when he failed to repay the loan the bank seized the money from the accounts of the embassy.

The former diplomat also sold an embassy vehicle without approval from the Foreign Ministry and the proceeds from the sales were not accounted for with the ministry, says the charge sheet.

The committee set the total amount embezzled/misappropriated at JD 343,116,727, the rent, the loan, the proceeds from the sale of the vehicle, interest paid on delayed payments and damages claimed as a result of Mr. Barakat's failure to meet the obligations and commitments of the embassy.

Legal sources expected the case, one of the rarest to be reported in Jordan, to be handled swiftly by the court since documents rather than witnesses are the pillars of cases involving charges of embezzlement.

If convicted, Mr. Barakat, who has already spent 20 months in prison, could be sentenced up to 15 years in jail and a stiff fine.

King returns after 'very positive talks'

(Continued from page 1)

Hamzeh and Prince Hashem, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Minister of Post and Telecommunications Jamal Sarairah, Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb and Royal Court Imam Ahmad Helayel.

The King and the delegation were seen off at Jeddah airport by Saudi Crown Prince and First Deputy Prince Abdullah and other senior Saudi officials and were received at Queen Alia Airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, other Royal family members and senior civilian and military officials.

Upon his arrival the King sent a cable to King Fahd expressing his "deep gratitude and appreciation" for the sincere and warm welcome "we received in your country."

In a statement to the Saudi Press agency (SPA) earlier, Mr. Kabariti described Jordanian-Saudi

relations as improving progressively and "are now normal."

"Jordan looks for further cooperation in all fields with Arab countries to end Arab differences and regain solidarity," he told SPA.

Royal Court Chief Khasawneh told Sawt Al Arab radio that the King's talks were also aimed at restoring Arab solidarity.

Official Saudi sources said the two monarchs agreed to urge the United States to pressure on Israel to abide by agreements the Jewish state has signed with the Arabs.

King Hussein and King Fahd also agreed to cooperate against terrorism, said the Saudi sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The security issue has become paramount in Saudi Arabia, where 24 Americans were killed in two bombings since November.

The sources said Mr. Kabariti also discussed security issues Sunday with the Saudi interior minister, Prince Nayef.

Jordan recently provided Saudi authorities with intelligence on groups suspected of the bombings and on pro-Iranian guerrillas, Saudi sources say.

Last year, Saudi authorities foiled an attempt to smuggle 36 kilograms of explosives through Jordan.

Reporting the talks, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said King Hussein and King Fahd discussed bilateral relations and means to enhance them to better serve the interests of the two countries. King Hussein and King Fahd also stressed the dire need to discuss issues of common concern and to activate bilateral agreements.

They also reviewed ways to end Arab differences and enhance Arab solidarity.

Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Kabariti, Upper House Speaker Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, Royal Court Chief Khasawneh, ministers Sarairah and Abul Ragheb and Jordanian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Hani Khalifeh.

It was attended on the Saudi side by Prince Abdullah, Minister of Defence Prince Sultan and other senior Saudi officials. Before returning home, the King prayed in Medina, burial place of the Prophet Mohammed.

Israel, Palestinians to resume civilian talks

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli soldiers and five civilians have been killed in shooting attacks in and near the West Bank.

Political negotiations between Israel and the PNA have also been suspended since before Israel's elections May 29, which saw a right-wing government come to power under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Netanyahu sent his foreign minister to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat last month but still has not announced a date for resumption of negotiations on a permanent peace settlement to replace the current interim autonomy deal signed in 1995.

PNA bans meeting

The PNA meanwhile banned a public meeting called Monday by deputies in the legislative council to discuss recent unrest in the Palestinian autonomy areas, council members said.

The deputies said they notably wanted to discuss recent violent protests early this month here and in the town of Tulkarem over actions by Palestinian police, including the torture death of a Palestinian detainee in a Nablus jail.

"The deputies' meeting with the public was called for Monday at the Nablus

Chamber of Commerce to discuss the recent political developments in the territories," one of the organisers told AFP.

Muawiyeh Al Masri, a council member from Nablus who was one of those involved in organising the meeting, said the encounter was banned by the local governor's office.

"They said the meeting could not be held because we didn't ask for prior permission from the Palestinian (National) Authority," he said.

"We are not acting against the PNA, but against the negative things that have happened recently," said Rafiq Natshe, a deputy from Hebron.

"This attempt to keep us from meeting is an attack on our right to assembly," he said.

Several dozen people and several deputies gathered outside the Chamber of Commerce for the meeting but the doors to the building remained closed. The deputies and some members of the public then met in a nearby restaurant.

"It's the first time there has been this kind of public confrontation between the legislative councillors and the PNA," said Jenin Deputy Jamal Al Shati.

Haidar Abdul Shafi, a deputy from Gaza and former peace negotiator with Israel, said he was shocked by the prohibition. "Why ban a simple public meet-

ing," he asked.

Six arrested

Palestinian police have arrested six members of a left-wing militant cell from the Hebron area which Israel suspects of carrying out a series of deadly anti-Israeli attacks, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said the six, members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), were detained by the preventive security services last week in Dura, a village south of Hebron.

The six were transferred to preventive security headquarters in Jericho for interrogation, they said.

Israeli reports said the six were suspected of belonging to a PFLP unit that ambushed two Israeli cars outside Jerusalem in June and July, killing five people.

The group is also suspected in the nighttime shooting death of two Israeli soldiers as they drove through the West Bank north of Hebron in January.

Colonel Jibril Rajub, head of the preventive security services in the West Bank, dismissed reports the detained PFLP men had been linked to the attacks as "nonsense."

But he acknowledged that a number of PFLP members had been detained for questioning.

U.S. sees 'wrong message'

(Continued from page 1)

said last week that the gas deal would be subject to the d'Amato law, but administration officials were reviewing the details of the deal signed Monday.

Turkey argues that the deal is a bilateral accord, and not an investment, and so would not be subject to the d'Amato law.

The Clinton administration has resisted taking a confrontational route with Turkey, a pivotal NATO ally in the Eastern Mediterranean that is a player in three important arenas: the Middle East, the Balkans and Central Asia.

Since the ascent to power in late June of Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party, numerous U.S. officials have travelled to Turkey for talks with the new government.

They succeeded in winning an extension of operation provide comfort last

month, allowing U.S., French and British warplanes to use Turkish bases to patrol a "no-fly zone" in northern Iraq. Before his election, Mr. Erbakan had opposed continuing the operation.

But on that issue Washington had the support of key NATO allies, while the d'Amato law and the overall U.S. strategy of isolating Iran has encountered stiff opposition in Europe.

"We're having trouble with all of our allies in Europe about putting economic pressure on Iran," said Edward Atkeson, an analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

"Germany is resistant, France is resistant, the British have sort of stood back."

"It would be very hard for U.S. to put much pressure on Turkey if we can't hold our closer allies in line," he said.

Parliamentary proposals 'not practical'

(Continued from page 1)

above the amount of the subsidy it is paying now," noted the source. "So it defeats the whole purpose."

Another option proposed by the parliamentary panel is setting a price of 130 fils per kilogramme of bread and giving JD 2.08 per head per month as direct compensation to all beneficiaries of the National Aid Fund (NAF).

According to the source, this means the government will pay 90 fils per kilogramme as direct subsidy (220 fils minus 130 fils), meaning a total of JD 63 million, and another JD 63 million in cash compensation for 250,000 NAF beneficiaries (JD 2.08 x 250,000 x 12). The total cost to the treasury will be JD 126 million, an additional JD 31 million expenditure over the present subsidy amount.

"Both options are totally not feasible because they mean increased costs to the treasury in total contradiction of the objective of removing subsidies and

reducing government expenditure," said the source.

The source rejected suggestions that the government could make up the difference by increasing customs duties on such items as vehicles, alcohol and electronic goods.

The government had already studied these options but found that the net increase in revenues through such hikes will be less than JD 5 million, according to the source.

In any event, the government's key objective is to remove subsidies as part of the Kingdom's economic system and it is not willing to consider any compromise in this context, the source affirmed.

That meant the prime minister setting a price of 220 fils per kilogramme of quality bread and 180 fils per kilo for rough bread and JD 1.28 per month compensation to every Jordanian.

Under this option the total cost to the treasury would be around JD 60 to \$65 million, but the executive authority would achieve the key objective of removing

subsidy for bread despite the slightly higher cost.

The government initially estimated that the total subsidy for rice, sugar, powdered milk and bread for fiscal year 1996 will be around JD 180 million. However, the amount spent in the first seven months of the year reached JD 160 million, raising serious fears that the actual cost for the year would be more than the projections.

The government has also removed subsidies on fodder but announced plans to compensate farmers through direct cash payments to those who deserve it under certain parameters. The net reduction in expenditure as a result of the modifications in subsidies is expected to be around JD 70 million.

According to other sources, the government is not going to enter more negotiations on the price of bread with Parliament, which, officials say, can exercise its constitutional options to challenge the decision.

"We have had enough discussions and protracted

debates over the issue," said an official source. "We tried our best to convince Parliament, but they (members of the special committee) were not willing to discuss things based on actual numbers and estimates."

"Parliament simply cannot insist on its demands without taking realities into consideration and leave the government with heavy financial burdens," added the source.

"The government will announce its administrative decision, and Parliament, if it is unhappy with the move, can adopt constitutional means to challenge it," said the source. "There is no transgression of democracy here. The government is exercising its executive prerogatives and the legislature can question it through the proper means."

"It is an irony," said the source. "Parliament has been consistently calling for reducing Jordan's external debts. But when the government adopts practical measures to achieve that goal, legislators cry foul and try to abort the move."

Pakistan to reopen Kabul embassy

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan agreed Monday to reopen its embassy in Kabul and offered to host a conference of Afghan leaders to find a solution to the country's factional war, officials said.

The agreement to reopen the embassy, burned in a mob attack last September, was reached during a meeting between Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and a visiting high-level Afghan government delegation led by Interior Minister Yunus Qanuni.

The Pakistan decision marks a warming of relations with the Kabul government led by President Burhanuddin Rabbani after nearly a year of strained ties following the burning of the Pakistani embassy.

State-run television quoted the foreign minister as saying Pakistan would send its ambassador to Kabul "shortly." It also quoted the foreign minister as saying Pakistan "is ready to host a meeting of regional Afghan leaders with a view to reaching solution to the Afghan problem."

An official near will visit Kabul before that to discuss arrangements and assess damages to the embassy building, which had been destroyed by a mob protesting Islamabad's alleged support to the Taliban Islamic militia, which is trying to unseat the Afghan government.

Pakistan had evacuated its diplomatic mission following the attack, in which one Pakistani embassy employee was killed and the ambassador and several other personnel were wounded.

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8 Economy

Sudanese grumble at low wages, high prices

KHARTOUM (R) — A few years ago, salaries in Sudan were taboo. Few ever disclosed how much they make — even to their spouses — and any mention of wages was invariably accompanied by an embarrassed and uneasy silence. But spiralling inflation and recent hikes in prices of basic goods has broken the barrier of good manners and made salaries the nation's number one topic of discussion. Labourers, academics and even government employees are complaining that recent price hikes are eating away their wages and even threatening to destabilise the government. "Eight years ago, my salary was just 3,000 Sudanese pounds but I lived well. I was even thinking of buying a car," said the head of a department at the University of Juba. "Now my salary is 45,000 pounds (\$31) per month but far from buying a car, I now wear clothes with patches because I cannot afford to buy new ones," the lecturer added. Poor pay has driven many professors at Khartoum University — the country's oldest and most prestigious institution — to resign, leaving 300 vacant positions in their wake. Almost 10 years ago, there were only 23 unfilled staff positions. The cost of almost all basic foodstuffs in Sudan have soared following a 60 per cent hike in fuel prices last June by the country's Islamist government trying to salvage an economy ravaged by 13 years of civil war and 100 per cent inflation. Sudan's largest trade union has demanded the government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir almost double the minimum wage to 27,000 pounds from the current 15,000 pounds. Trade unions have hinted they may go on strike or even stage demonstrations which in the past have contributed to the overthrow of many Sudanese governments. Khartoum newspapers said Taj Al Sir Abdou, head of the influential General Federation of Trade Unions, met Lieutenant-General Bashir this month only to be told that the government would rather subsidise foodstuffs than foot an estimated 18 billion pound salary increase which will further deplete its almost-empty coffers. "This (subsidies) is better than increasing salaries," the government-owned Al Ingaz Al Watani daily said. But even with the subsidies, which cover the cost of wheat, cooking oil, meat and pulses, many Sudanese say life has become unbearable. Sugar prices have doubled in less than a month and current monthly wages will not buy six kilograms of meat. "I don't go home after work but go straight to sell dates and roasted nuts which my wife prepares every evening so that we and our seven children can survive," said a 42-year-old civil servant who barely manages on his 16,500 pound monthly pay. A Khartoum-based doctor was forced to share his room with a colleague because he could not pay its 40,000 pounds monthly rent. "With my 30,000 pound salary, I could no longer afford to rent it by myself," he said. Even parliamentarians have slammed the government for the price hikes, demanding their salaries be increased to 400,000 pounds a month but house speaker, Sudan's spiritual patron Hassan Al Turabi, refused. "Turabi said that we cannot get that kind of salary we are demanding because a central minister gets only 136,000 pounds monthly," one member told Reuters. "He said the public would blame him saying he was only feeding his people." He said Mr. Turabi proposed National Assembly members get 100,000 pounds as a basic salary with an additional 72,000 pounds a month when the parliament is in session. But grumbling members of parliament's branch in Juba, the largest government-held town in the war-torn south, have passed a no-confidence vote against the government on pay protests. To provide financial cushioning, the state has set up several social funds but the people are still dissatisfied.

Bulgaria launches reform at last

SOFIA (AFP) — Facing economic disaster and under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, Bulgaria has at last bitten the economic bullet. The government has decided to close down 64 state-owned companies, employing 25,000 workers, which have accumulated losses totalling \$140 million. A further 70 firms with 233,000 employees, which have debts of \$940 million, are to be restructured with the aim of making them profitable. The banking system is also in chaos. Prime Minister Jean Videnov has warned of the imminent collapse of the state-owned Mineral Bank and several private banks. The central bank has just sacked the board of Mineral Bank and another private concern which had built up huge debts, and a law protecting the private savings deposits of individuals is expected to be rushed through parliament soon. According to the Bulgarian Science Academy's Economic Institute, more than \$1 billion have been lost to the country's banks in the form of irrecoverable loans in the past two years. "The revolution towards a market economy has been transformed into a criminal revolution," the institute said in a report. Each of the seven successive governments since the fall of the communist regime in 1989 has been warned by the IMF and the World Bank to put their economic house in order.

Israel to start privatisation in September — reports

TEL AVIV (R) — The prime minister's office is preparing a programme for privatising government companies starting in September, Israeli newspapers have reported. A spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed to Reuters that the government intends to privatise a number of companies. He said the intention was to first privatise those where labour opposition is weak and postpone privatisation of companies where opposition is strong, he said. Companies like Israel Electric Corp or El Al Israel airlines, which have strong labour unions, will not be privatised early on, the newspapers said. Defence companies will also not be privatised in the beginning. The papers did not quote sources, but high-ranking government officials often brief local reporters, requesting not to be quoted. Mr. Netanyahu believes a programme of the former government to distribute options to the public should be implemented only as a last resort, the newspapers said. The programme called for distributing options to buy shares in government companies at a discount. A programme for structural reforms of the economy will be brought to the government in the coming weeks. Mr. Netanyahu believes the reforms should be gradual, but considers deregulation and competition in the economy even more important than privatisation. Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman said that although the prime minister is adamant about cutting the 1997 budget by 4.9 billion shekels, or 3.2 per cent (excluding debt servicing), some changes could be made in the composition of the cuts to account for social considerations. The government fears its proposal for budget cuts, as they stand, will not get the necessary approval from parliament because they are perceived as hurting low-income families.

World oil demand to rise sharply next year

LONDON (R) — World oil demand should rise sharply again next year, driven mostly by economic growth among developing nations, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has said. But, at the same time, oil supplies from non-OPEC countries also should rise strongly, leaving little room for extra Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) output, the Paris-based agency said in a monthly oil market report. World demand was expected to rise by 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) to 73.6 million in 1997, up 2.5 per cent on top of this year's 1.7 million bpd growth, the IEA said. The extra demand would be driven by 4.1 per cent economic growth among nations outside the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the IEA said. OECD economic growth is anticipated by the IEA at 1.4 per cent next year. Rising non-OPEC supplies are expected to soak up most of the extra world demand next year. "The non-OPEC supply increases are not only expected to continue in 1997 but are also projected to be slightly larger than in 1996 at 1.6 million bpd versus 1.5 million bpd for this year," the agency said. Non-OPEC supplies on average in 1997 are projected at 45.7 million bpd versus 44.1 million in 1996 and 42.6 million in 1995. "Almost a third of the increase comes from the North Sea, with nearly a quarter of the gain being from Latin America and significant volumes from Africa and the non-Russian republics of the former Soviet Union," it said. Non-OPEC supplies are expected to hit 47.1 million in the fourth quarter of next year from 45.6 million in the fourth quarter this year and 42.9 million in the same period last year. World oil production rose sharply again in July up 500,000 bpd to 72.5 million bpd on top of an extra million bpd in June. "New offshore fields in the North Sea, West Africa, Australia, China, Brazil and the U.S. Gulf of Mexico are continuing to raise output levels and new OPEC natural gas liquids projects are beginning to have some impact on supply," the IEA said.

Seven Indian Ocean states mull economic bloc

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's commerce minister has said that Oman and six other countries bordering the Indian Ocean would meet in September to discuss final details to set up an economic bloc. He said the bloc could be extended to other countries including Yemen and Malaysia when the time was right. Al Watan said a recent visit to Mauritius and India by Oman minister of state for foreign affairs Youssef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah to discuss details for setting up the bloc would be followed soon by a visit to the other Indian Ocean countries. Mr. Sultan said economic cooperation between the seven states would be in stages, starting with tourism and trade and developing into "a full economic bloc" to include investment and joint projects. Oman, a small oil producer, is trying to diversify its economy and encourage foreign and private investment. It is part of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which includes Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1996
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) State what your public aims are today and you discover some method of operation to achieve your desire. The evening is best for handling small personal tasks which you must accomplish to gain your prosperity.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) There are several ways of getting ahead faster with career activities awaiting you so devise some method of operation which will be appropriate. Later this evening should go smoothly if you meet with some close friends of fun.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan creative and romantic activities for your mate today and execute them with such finesse that your loved one will be overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness. Tonight you can handle those career activities which require extra efficiency.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Show that you are loyal to your mate today and have that necessary discussion with a loved one which you determine as crucial to his or her happiness. Later tonight will be good for you to go out on the town with close friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make sure you handle a matter very well today, even though it requires much thought. Entertain nicely at home tonight and invite some close friends and fellow associates to enjoy themselves and have a wonderful time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go after the advice you need today where money is concerned and follow through with the suggestions, so that you will have extra funds for the lean times. Get your environment spanking clean this evening and your loved ones will appreciate the gesture.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Use that special charm today you possess and get rid of that tiresome difficult situation which has been bothering you for sometime. Later tonight you can meet with knowledgeable person and devise a successful plan of action.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do whatever will help your mate out of a dilemma during the morning today and later this evening enjoy the company of a close friend who you wish to have contact with in the days ahead for some pleasant activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look to a good friend for assistance today with a predicament difficult for you to solve. Plan new actions which should get you the success which you desire and by assistance from some bigwig who has the answers.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Study well today how to improve your position with the general public. Have fun with friends later this evening and you will be able to develop some recreational activities which will be enjoyed by all of them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Gain more outside prestige today by meeting with some authority figure and make new contacts whereby you will be able to complete an important project. Gain the approval of some bigwig later this evening and state your position.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Give attention to business affairs today and you can meet with some interesting new contacts who have some solutions to any career activities difficulties which you may have. Please your mate is a special way. Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz.

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Shmehani, second
220 sq.m.
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area, third floor, 190
Abdoun Real E
Tel: 810605 - 81
Fax: 810520

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Hotel

THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS

- Ordered
- Diva Callas
- Traffic sign
- Ancient Greek coin
- Construction item
- Chardonnay
- Practical wisdom
- "— a kick out..."
- Print measurements
- Slipper
- Gadabouts
- Subsides
- Restaurant employee
- Command to a dog
- Plants with bell shaped flowers
- Tot in a pool
- Turkish generals
- CD rate
- Press
- Practice
- Calgary's prov.
- Part of a journey
- Tan
- Stratum
- Spanish island
- 47 Stern
- 9 "— Graffiti" (film)
- 51 Mozart songs, e.g.
- 57 Write
- 57 Scorch
- 59 Levin or Gershwin
- 60 Protuberance
- 61 Kind of knot
- 64 Borneo sea
- 65 Albacores
- 66 PA port
- 67 Integers
- 68 Inscribed pillar
- 69 Some breads

DOWN

- Tea
- Explosive missile
- Backs
- Emile of golf
- Apply improperly
- Explorer Tasman
- 7 Modernize
- 8 Plane velocity: abbr.
- 10 Kind of chair
- 11 Flower
- 12 Doozy
- 13 Cat and canary
- 18 Arab prince
- 23 Elevator man
- 25 At that time
- 27 More pale
- 29 Cowboy item
- 31 Chip in
- 32 Antares or Deneb
- 33 Determination
- 34 Tract
- 35 Swimming stroke
- 37 Prevent from speaking
- 40 Teapot storms?
- 41 River into the Rhine
- 43 Obscure
- 44 Hideaways
- 46 French farewells
- 48 Slip by
- 50 Display of anger
- 52 Log
- 53 Baseball's Banks
- 54 Rouses
- 55 — many words
- 56 It can be proper
- 58 Cure
- 62 Ramshackle structure
- 63 Pronoun

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"Imagine how much money we'd save if they could put deodorant, perfume and mouthwash in the same bottle!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROGGE
SABUQ
FLUFEM
TSATLE

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: TAWNY MOUNT BECALM MOROSE
Answer: What they called the sign maker — A MAN OF LETTERS

Peanuts

I LIKE THESE NATURE PROGRAMS...YOU SEE THINGS YOU NEVER THOUGHT COULD...
CLOMP!
...HAPPEN

Andy Capp

I THINK I'LL HANG UP MY BOOTS, PER... I'VE GOT TO GO TO BED...
WE DON'T LOOK ALL THAT TIRED, FLO
TIRED OF BEING SENT OFF, RUBS
SILLY ME

Mutt'n'Jeff

Seles wins Canadian Open

MONTREAL (R) — Monica Seles successfully defended her Canadian Open title Sunday when she defeated second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain 6-1 7-6 (7-2) in the final.

Seles, the top seed, won the first five games of the opening set with power hitting reminiscent of the Monica Seles who held sole possession of the world number one ranking in 1991 and 1992. Seles made only four unforced errors despite hitting full-out on almost all her shots.

Seles led 2-0, 15-40 on Sanchez Vicario's serve in the second set but the Spaniard battled back and forced the set to a tie break. Sanchez Vicario won the first two points of the tie-breaker but then lost a point on a backhand error. On the next point, her racquet slipped out of her hand and Seles only had to hit the ball back to win the point.

Sanchez Vicario, after going to her chair to wipe off her racquet handle, returned and promptly double faulted to give Seles a 3-2 lead.

Seles didn't lose another point in completing a seven-point run and earning her 11th victory over Sanchez Vicario in 12 career meetings.

Seles earned the \$200,000 first prize in the \$926,250 tournament. It was her fourth tournament win in 1996. She also won the Australian Open and events in Sydney and Eastbourne, England.

"That was a huge break when Arantxa lost her racquet in the tie break," Seles said after her win. "We both played some great tennis and I knew that with the way Arantxa can chase balls and get them back that the match wouldn't be over until we shook hands at the net."

"I thought I played very well from the backcourt but I still wasn't trying very well," said Seles.

"I did all I could," said Sanchez Vicario, "but Monica just played too well."

About the racquet slipping



Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (right) congratulates Monica Seles of the United States following the finals of the du Maurier Open in Montreal. Seles won the match 6-1 7-5 (Reuter photo)

out of her hand at a critical juncture. She added: "At 2-1 (in the tiebreaker), that was a gift for her and she was a little bit lucky."

Comparing her form to 1992, when she was runner-up to Sanchez Vicario at the Canadian Open before beating her in the final of the U.S. Open three weeks later, Seles said:

"Obviously, I was playing great tennis then the way I was dominating, and I was very focused."

"It's hard to be that focused all the time and I don't have that right now."

She added: "I'm not as mentally strong as I was, but then I can't expect to be because I had a break (because of the Hamburg stabbing) at a crucial time in my

career. But it's great to be back and I hope I can get there again."

Seles will not play any more tournaments before the U.S. Open begins on Aug. 26 in New York. "I've been playing tennis since May 7 and it's time for a break," she said. "I'm going to take four or five days off and then start refocusing for the U.S. Open."

Agassi beats Chang to retain ATP title

MASON, Ohio (R) — Defending champion Andre Agassi persevered for a 7-6 (7-4) 6-4 victory over Michael Chang Sunday, beating him for the second successive year in the final of the \$2.2 million ATP Championship.

The sixth-seeded and seventh-ranked Agassi, who came directly from his Olympic gold medal performance in Atlanta, defeated three top-five players in a row to defend his title.

He beat fourth-ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia in the quarterfinals, second-ranked Thomas Muster of Austria in the semifinals and the third-ranked Chang in the final.

For the third-seeded Chang, playing in his fourth consecutive final at the ATP Championship, the loss marked his first defeat since the first round of Wimbledon.

A two-time champion here, Chang came into the

tournament having won the two previous tournaments in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles.

Agassi leads Chang 11-6 in their head-to-head series, but the two Americans are now even at 2-2 for matches in 1996.

The player who has won the opening set of their past 17 encounters has gone on to win the match 15 times. Agassi opened the one hour, 43 minute match with a service break, but in no way believed he had staked his claim for victory.

"When I match up with Michael, there are a lot of moments when the momentum swings quickly in short spurts," said Agassi, who earned \$300,000. "When we play a two-set match, I expect three or four service breaks. Neither one of us will hold serve all the time."

The two tend not to overpower each other because neither can be considered an aggressive serve-and-vol-

leyer. They have to take the advantage from the backcourt, which makes holding serve a little more tenuous.

"In a lot of ways we play like women's tennis, meaning you're up a (service) hold," Agassi said, as opposed to being up a service break.

Chang, who served at a low 46 per cent first-serve efficiency, conquered Agassi's serve in the eighth game to climb back even at 4-4 in the first set.

In the tenth game of the first set, Chang led 5-4 and had four set points on Agassi's serve. But Agassi stepped up the level of his play and saved himself from going down a one-set deficit.

"Andre was able to play some good tennis today," Chang said. "I really had my chances. But those four set points, at this calibre of tennis, you can't let those opportunities slip away. I was frustrated to lose that

first set."

Down 2-4 to Chang in the tiebreaker, Agassi won the next five points to end the first set.

After exchanging early service breaks in the second set, Agassi took the match by breaking Chang's serve in the final game of the match. At 30-40 in that tenth game, a Chang forehand smacked into the top of the net and dropped back onto his own side of the net.

Chang, who earned \$169,000, felt he lacked a little spring in his legs and suggested that Olympic gold medal gymnast Amanda Borden, a local resident who was in the crowd, might have been able to help him out.

"I played well, but I can play better," Chang said. "I think I needed a little bit more bounce in my legs. Maybe Amanda could've helped me out."

U.S. wins two golds at World Rowing Championships

STRATHCLYDE, Scotland (AP) — The United States women's coxless fours and lightweight coxless pairs won gold at the World Rowing Championships Sunday.

On the final day of rowing, there also were victories for Romania's Olympic champion Constanta Burcica in the double sculls, Karsten Nielsen of Denmark in the lightweight sculls while Romania also won the gold in the men's coxed fours.

The victorious coxless four crew of Emily Dirksen, Sara Field, Amy Turner and Rosan Zegarra — who had never competed outside of the United States before — trailed Romania for three quarters of the race, but sprinted home in the last 500 metres (546.8 yards) to win by nearly two seconds in 6:49.48 with Germany in third.

"Once we won our semifinal we started to think we could go for a medal," said Field after winning the United States' first gold at this year's non-Olympic event competition.

"We knew we had a chance for gold with 500 metres (546 3/4 yards) to go," she added.

Defending gold medalists Christine Smith and Ellen Minzner led all the way in their lightweight coxless pair final, finishing the 2000-metre (1.24 mile) race in seven minutes 56.66 seconds — more than seven seconds faster than second-placed Britain (8:02.71) with Romania third in

8:03.31.

Lightweight sculler Saran Garner and the women's lightweight coxless four crew brought home bronze medals for the United States, while Californian James Martinez finished fourth in his lightweight sculls final.

Garner, from Madison, Wisconsin but now living in Philadelphia, led her lightweight sculls race right up until the final 50 metres (54.6 yards).

But Burcica — a gold medalist in the lightweight double sculls at the Atlanta Olympics — stormed home to win in 8:06.90, with France's Benedicte Luzny grabbing second in 8:07.66, Garner settling for third in 8:09.74.

"I gave it all I had," said an exhausted, but happy Garner.

Martinez, a reserve for the U.S. Olympic rowing team, looked like he was going to repeat his semifinal victory for most of his race, but was overtaken in the last 200 metres (218 3/4 yards) for a fourth finish in 7:38.08.

The winner, in 7:35.72, was the other semifinal victor, Nielsen, with Tomas Kacovsky of Czech Republic second and Finland's Heikki Haavikko in third.

The Canadian lightweight men's eight finished third in 5:59.47 behind winners Germany (5:55.06) and Denmark (5:56.96).

In the men's coxed fours, Romania clocked 6:25.74 ahead of Czech Republic (6:26.76) and Russia (6:28.17).

New S. African League makes disappointing start

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The Premier Soccer League, billed as the most exciting event in South African soccer history, made a disappointing debut at the weekend.

An armed gang stole the gate receipts from a match in the Indian Ocean port of Durban and security officials reacted swiftly to prevent a referee and a coach being assaulted at other venues.

The 18-team national championship flopped on the pitch as well with nine matches producing just 11 goals and three players sent off, including one from glamour club Kaizer Chiefs.

Crowds were also poor with only 35,000 spectators at FNB Stadium in Johannesburg for a double-header featuring major drawcards Orlando Pirates and Chiefs.

"I think the players were tense, which is only natural considering this is the beginning of new era in South African football," league chief executive Trevor Phillips said Monday.

Phillips, one of the officials credited with transforming the English Premier Division

into a major European league, moved to South Africa this month on a one-year contract.

African Champions' Cup holders Pirates, traditional rivals Chiefs and Pretoria-based Sundowns are favourites to win the richest championship on the continent.

But Pirates were fortunate 2-1 winners over Moroka Swallows and Chiefs needed a soft late goal to overcome Jomo Cosmos 1-0 in a match where two cards were shown.

Sundowns, an expensively assembled team guided by former Zimbabwe coach Reinhard Fabisch, conceded a late goal and lost 1-0 to Real Rovers in the northern town of Pietersburg.

Warren Lewis, a forward from Durban club Amazulu, took just eight minutes to score the first goal of the League and Manny Rodrigues of Cape Town Spurs was the first player to be sent off.

Zanardi continues campaign with Indycar win

LEXINGTON, Ohio (AFP) — Super rookie Alex Zanardi of Italy chalked up his second Indycar victory, setting the pace for the entire 83 laps of Sunday's Indycar Miller 200 at the mid-Ohio sports car course.

Zanardi led his Chip Ganassi racing teammate Jimmy Vasser, the leader in the points championship, across the finish line. The

win is the sixth for the Ganassi team and the 10th in 13 Indycar events for Honda.

Zanardi got the jump he needed during a restart with three left in the race. Vasser was challenged for moment by Michael Andretti, but Andretti fell back into a battle with Bryan Herta, freeing Vasser to secure second and giving Zanardi a big

lead. Andretti fought off Herta for third, with Bobby Rahal finishing fifth. The one-two finish is the first in the history of the Chip Ganassi team.

"This is fantastic," said Zanardi, who will substantially increase his lead in the rookie points race. "I don't know where I am in points. This is great for the team, a

one-two finish. We couldn't do any better than that."

The win is the second for Zanardi, and it comes a day after he set the qualifying record in winning the pole position.

Zanardi led 79 laps, with Vasser leading the four laps during pit periods, and will certainly pad his lead as the season's lap leader.

Newcastle down but not out as United flourish

LONDON (R) — Newcastle's trophy-starved fans trudged away from Wembley in the rain Sunday, glum but not despairing after their team's 4-0 drubbing at the hands of English league and cup double winners Manchester United.

The day's weather had mirrored their mood. It started brightly, clouded over by half-time in the F.A. Charity Shield, and ended with thick black clouds, thunder and heavy rain.

"We were beaten by the better side today, there's no doubt about it. Newcastle were wide open," said one of the 35,000 or so fans who made the long trip to London from the northeast.

"But we'll still win the league."

After watching Manchester United trample over Newcastle's multi-million pound side, his confidence appeared ill-founded.

Alex Ferguson's men dominated the match for all but a 20 minute spell in the second half, and made Newcastle's £15-million (\$22.1

million) man — England striker Alan Shearer — look ordinary.

Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan has rebuilt his side at the cost of £60 million (\$92.5 million) over the past four years, and while Ferguson too has dipped into the transfer market, United have never lost faith in their youth team policy.

That appears to be paying off and United's Charity Shield win will let every other team in the Premier League know the young men in red are not prepared to give up their league title without a fight.

David Beckham and Nicky Butt, both just 21 years old, were outstanding Sunday.

Their youth, carefully blended with the experience of 30-year-old Eric Cantona and Danish international goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, contrasted sharply with the millions of pounds spent on Shearer, Colombian Faustino Asprilla and Les Ferdinand.

"There looked to be a

massive gulf between the two clubs. I just hope I am wrong," Keegan said afterwards. "The hunger and passion was missing from our game. We looked out of sorts and treated it as a pre-season warm-up."

Keegan said: "The key to our game is to get the ball down and pass it about. We didn't do that today and I don't think we matched them for work-rate either."

"We were invited to play as Manchester United won the double. But it's been terrible and I wish they had invited someone else."

One consolation for Keegan was the performance of substitute Asprilla, the costly Colombian.

"He did more in five minutes than the rest did in 90," Keegan said. "But we know Alan will play better and the partnership with Les will get better."

United worked wonderfully well as a whole, and part of their secret appears to lie in their ability to unpick and restitch their team without leaving the

seams showing.

In the second half, for example, they brought on Czech midfielder Karel Poborsky for Butt, forcing Beckham to move inside to the centre of midfield, but there was not a hint of disruption to their playing pattern.

In contrast Shearer and his striking partner Ferdinand never played fully in tandem.

The defensive weaknesses that plagued Keegan's side last year were again in evidence, and will need to be rectified quickly if they are to bring the league title to Tyneside for the first time since 1927.

United, with three league titles from the last four years, will be aiming for a higher goal — their first European Cup success since 1968.

Maradona says he is quitting Boca

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Soccer star Diego Maradona said Sunday he was quitting his Argentine club, Boca Juniors, and hinted he might even retire.

Maradona, 35, announced his decision to leave Boca shortly before the club's penultimate game of the season against Estudiantes de La Plata.

"It's all my fault what is happening to Boca right now," the former Argentine captain said before starting the game which Boca lost 2-1, dashing their slim hopes of winning the league.

Maradona, who has a contract with Boca until December 1997, missed a cru-

cial penalty last week in a 1-0 defeat to racing club. It was the fifth consecutive penalty Maradona has missed.

"My daughters suffered a lot after that game and that made me think everything over," he said. "This will be my last game at Boca's stadium. The last game of the season is away to Deportivo Espanol."

"I don't know whether I will continue," he added. "It's something I'll consider in due time."

Boca officials said after the game that Maradona had spoken "in the heat of the moment" and that they would try to convince him to stay.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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CUTTING THE LINE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 8 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A 10 9
♣ A 7

WEST
♠ 9 4 3
♥ A K J 6 5
♦ 8 5
♣ 10 8 2

EAST
♠ 7 6 5
♥ 8 2
♦ Q K 4 2
♣ K 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ 7 Q 10 9 7
♦ J 8 7 3
♣ Q J 9 4

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1A Pass Pass INT Pass
2A Pass Pass INT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
Dire situations require drastic action. East rose to the occasion on this hand.
North's jump rebid of three spades was invitational, not forcing. However, South had a maximum one no trump response, and it was simply a matter of whether to rebid three no trump or raise to four spades. We find both acceptable.
West led the ace of hearts. That asks partner to unblock the queen

or, if partner does not hold the queen, to give count. East started an ace by playing the eight, showing an even number of cards in the suit. That had to be a doubleton, since South would surely not have persisted with three no trump without a sure stopper in the unbid major.

West shifted to the eight of clubs, ducked in dummy. East took the king and considered the options. West's spoked ruled out the possibility of a club continuation, which would have allowed declarer to score an overtrick. The only hope lay in shutting declarer out of black-suit tricks, and East found the answer. The defender shifted to the king of diamonds at trick three.

Declarer could not afford to duck — a shift back to hearts would give the defenders three tricks in that suit and one in each minor. But after taking the ace of diamonds declarer could not unblock the North-South tricks.

If declarer cashed the ace of spades, then crossed to the ace of clubs to run spades, there would be no entry back to the closed hand to the club winners. And if declarer unblocked the ace of clubs first, there would be no way to reach the table's running spades. Down one.

<p>CINEMA TEL: 634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Clueless</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 699236</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>Laila Alawi & Singer Mohammad Fuad In</p> <p>Traffic Lights (Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>Toy Story</p> <p>5:00 p.m</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1"</p> <p>Julia Roberts...in</p> <p>Something to Talk About</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2"</p> <p>SEVEN</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30</p>	<p>Almoud Theatre & Cinema TEL: 625745</p> <p>Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled</p> <p>Five-Star Government</p> <p>Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubeishat</p> <p>play starts 8:30 p.m</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</p> <p>PRESENTS</p> <p>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</p> <p>Arab Human Rights</p> <p>At 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call 625155-640155</p>
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